

1693
1993

NEW CASTLE



*Welcome to New Castle,
and our historical past....*

During the summer of 1993, New Castle celebrates the 300th anniversary of the incorporation of the town, in 1693.

To participate in the events, the New Castle Historical Group embarked on a search for some of the historical aspects of a few of the older homes on the island.

In addition to original land grants, deeds, and other recorded information, data was accumulated on the families who made up our town. Many current residents are descendants of these former inhabitants.

It is with their help and support, plus the intense pursuit of information by current residents, that we are able to present a compilation of this information.

Thank you to all who participated in this undertaking. Your endeavors will endure.

To all those who will use this information, enjoy yourselves. The Joy is in the Journey.

Hi
Old N

NEW CASTLE WALKABOUT

Historical background on
Old New Castle Houses

Volume I

Compiled by
The New Castle Historical Group

William G. Drew, Editor

Ruth Cowan, Artist
Edward C. Dann, Cover Designer

Grist Mill Publishing Company
New Castle, NH
1993

NEW CASTLE WALKABOUT

THE HISTORY OF NEW CASTLE

FROM 1607 TO 1800

Volume I

Compiled by

THE NEW CASTLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEW CASTLE, DELAWARE

1900

Published by the New Castle Historical Society

NEW CASTLE, DELAWARE

1900

Foreword

You are about to embark on an historical trip through New Castle.

First, we have an essay by William Tarbell which describes the evolution of architectural styles that have influenced New Castle houses over the past three hundred and fifty years. We continue with a brief review of New Castle's early history.

The houses that we will visit are all on the northern end of the island and have been divided into five neighborhoods. Each has its own map, history, pictures and house descriptions.

Each map is oriented with respect to the center of town, the church and the town hall. The first neighborhood is the center of town. The succeeding neighborhoods follow a counterclockwise pattern around the center of town, by first going east and north toward Fort Point, then turning west and going upriver, and finally moving southwest into the Upper Cove and the Cape area.

Each neighborhood is exclusive of the others, and can be toured separately. For the parking of cars prior to a walking tour: the parking lot just behind the church is a good place to start. Next, the parking lot just inside the Coast Guard Station at the northeastern end of the island is another good location. Finally, the parking lot at the school, in the western end of the island is a third good place to park.

For inclusion in Volume I, we have selected twenty-eight houses, the church, and the Piscataqua Cafe. More houses will be covered as we intend to publish a Volume II in the near future. The abstract for each house has been compiled by interested individuals, usually the homeowner. Supplemental data has been integrated into this material to help depict the unique character of the town.

The publication costs of this project are being underwritten by a grant from The New Castle Historical Trust. A debt of gratitude goes to those who, long ago, had the foresight and made provisions to enable a project like this to come to fruition.

Special credit and warm thanks are due to the following members of the New Castle Historical Group, who have contributed research, collection, and compilation of material for the book, as well as assistance in putting it all together.

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William G. Drew

July 20, 1993

Table Of Contents

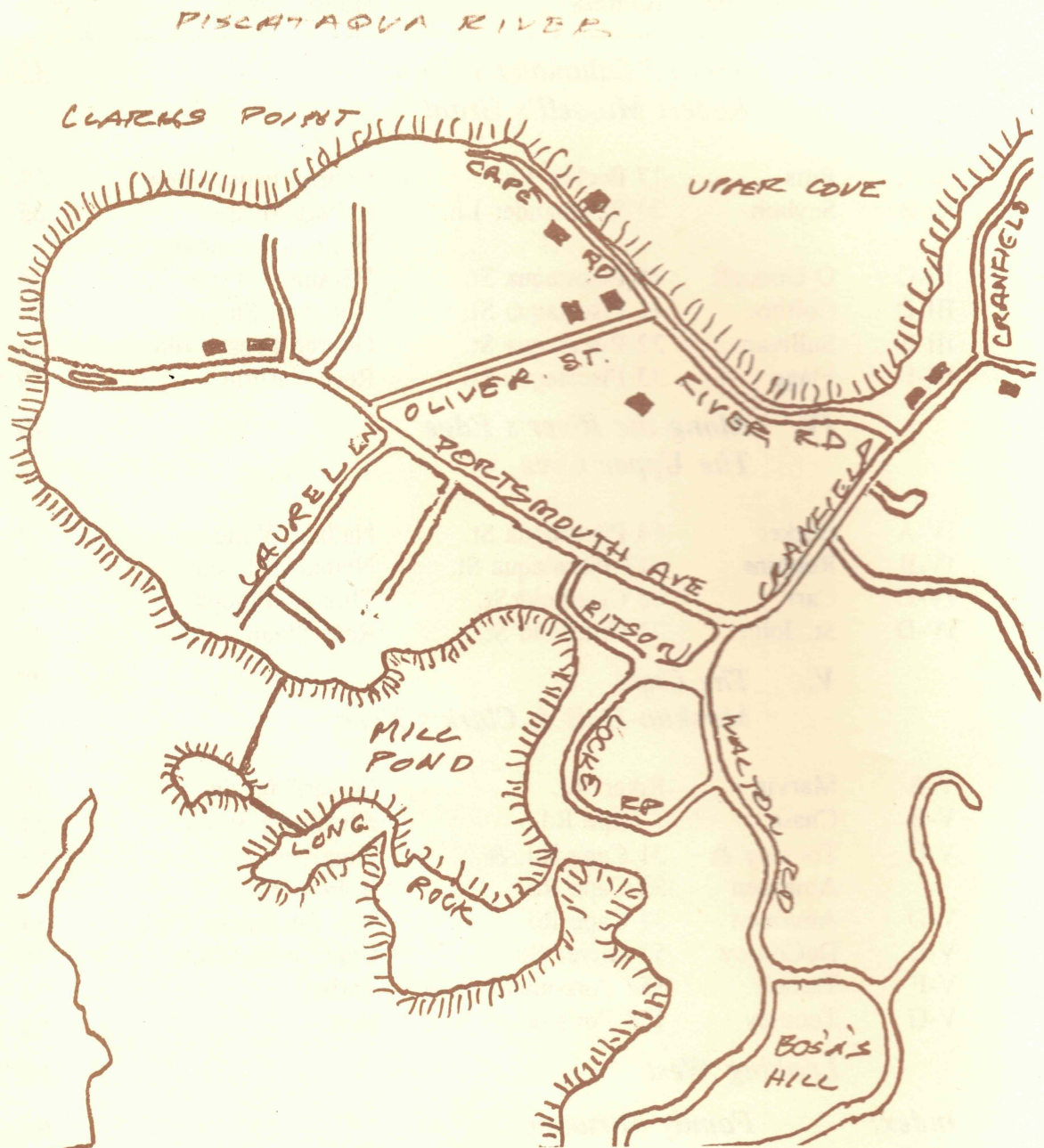
	Page
Foreword	i
Table of Contents	iii
Map	vi
Introduction: <i>Architectural Evolution of Great Island</i> by William Tarbell	1
<i>New Castle - Gateway to History</i>	7
Houses	

No.	Owner-1993	Address	House Name	
<i>I. The Heart of New Castle</i>				<i>9</i>
I-A	Church	Main St.	New Castle Church	10
I-B	Udaloy	23 Main St.	Lilac Ledges	12
I-C	Lewis	Main St.	The Little House	14
I-D	Gil	79 Main St.	Thomas Follansby	15
			Henry Foss	
I-E	King	11 Atkinson St.	William Trundy	17
I-F	MacDonald	145 Main St.	Ann Smart's Cottage	18
I-G	Harrigan	155 Main St.	Trefethen	19
<i>II. At the Mouth of the River</i> <i>Wentworth Rd. & Walbach St.</i>				<i>20</i>
II-A	Cox	39 Wentworth Rd.	Thomas Haywood	22
II-B	Llewellyn	34 Wentworth Rd.	Ivan Meloon	24
II-C	Feder	24 Wentworth Rd.	Joseph Morse	25
II-D	Harling	16 Wentworth Rd.	Thomas Bell	27
II-E	Horner	61 Walbach St.	Geo. Walton's Tavern	28
			William Jones	
II-F	Caswell	33 Walbach St.	Province House	30

Table Of Contents

No.	Owner-1993	Address	House Name	Page
<i>III. Around Salamander Point Robert Mussell's Grant</i>				<i>31</i>
III-A	Pitts	17 Becker Ln.	George Frost - new	33
III-B	Seybolt	24 Salamander Ln.	Robert Mussell William Vennard	35
III-C	O'Donnell	46 Piscataqua St.	"Grampy" Prohaska	36
III-D	Colliton	42 Piscataqua St.	Abraham Shreefe	37
III-E	Sullivan	22 Piscataqua St.	George Frost - old	38
III-F	Flagg	33 Piscataqua St.	Reed-Tarlton	39
<i>IV. Along the River's Edge The Upper Cove</i>				<i>40</i>
IV-A	Becker	64 Piscataqua St.	Nathan White	42
IV-B	Robbins	117 Piscataqua St.	Nathaniel Fryer	43
IV-C	Carr	68 Cranfield St.	Thomas Phipps	45
IV-D	St. John	74 Cranfield St.	Rev. Sloan	46
<i>V. The Cape Muskito Hall & Clark's Neck</i>				<i>47</i>
V-A	Marvin	River Rd.	Oliver/Marvin	49
V-B	Chase	7 Cape Rd.	Alexander White	51
V-C	Toomey & Amazeen	31 Cape Rd. & 33 Cape Rd.	Amazeen Robert White	53
V-D	Amazeen	32 Cape Rd.	The Piscataqua Cafe	54
V-E	DeCourcy	57 Oliver St.	Capt. John White	56
V-F	Tarbell	152 Portsmouth Ave.	Tarbell	57
V-G	Toomey	158 Portsmouth Ave.	Neal	58
<i>Looking West</i>				<i>60</i>
<i>Index:</i>	<i>Family Surname</i>			<i>63</i>

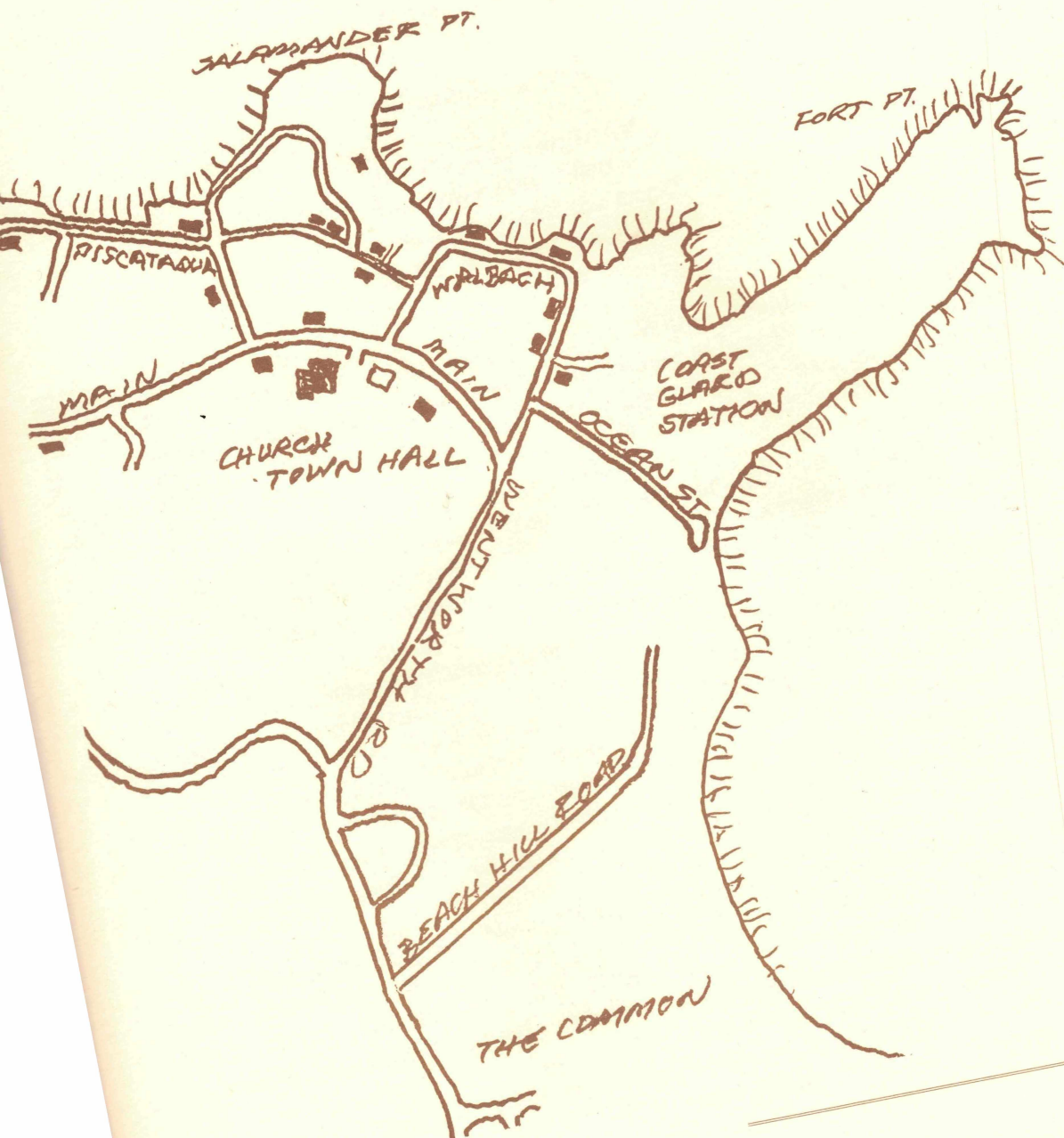
Map of New Castle



A New Castle Walkabout

Map of New Castle

PISCATAQUA RIVER

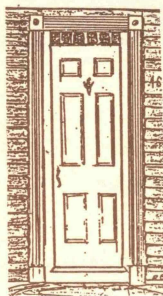




Architectural Evolution of Great Island

by
William Tarbell

*"If with fancy unfurled
You leave your abode,
You may go round the world
by the 'inalong' road."
John Albee*

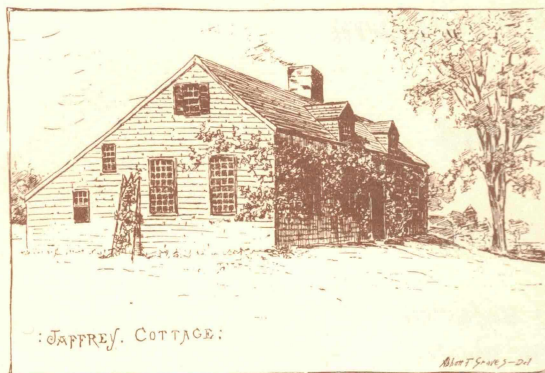


Pirates, hostile native Americans, and harsh weather were risks to New Castle's pioneers, and the shelters they built provided more protection than grace. From England they brought a knowledge of medieval construction in wood, plentiful in the new colony. The strongest buildings were garrisons, called *logg* houses. An original Dover example is preserved at that city's Woodman Institute. New Castle historian John Albee describes the typical settler home as "...small and low, unplastered, with two doors only, and few windows or none."

The settlement of New Castle began shortly after 1623 along the Little Harbor shore, opposite the first New Hampshire settlement called "Mason Hall", at Odiorne Point. The major settlement eventually shifted to the Piscataqua River side of Great Island.

Within running distance of the blockhouse at Fort Point on the northeastern finger of the island, the settlers built a raw village. Safety was in numbers. They depended on each other for survival and so huddled their houses predominantly along footpaths near the *inalong*, still the core of New Castle. Near the fort, then called *the Castle*, stood the first meetinghouse. Records indicate that its door hinges were shaped like the letter "S". The coves of the Piscataqua River, of course, gave fishermen and other mariners shelter for boats. Great Island also provided a natural moat against invaders from the mainland, a consideration that helped make New Castle the first seat of the provincial government. It held that honor for seventy-five years.

As decades passed, settlers gained a foothold in the colony and newer houses reflected confidence. George Jaffrey's house of before 1673, which survived near Jaffrey Point until destroyed by fire

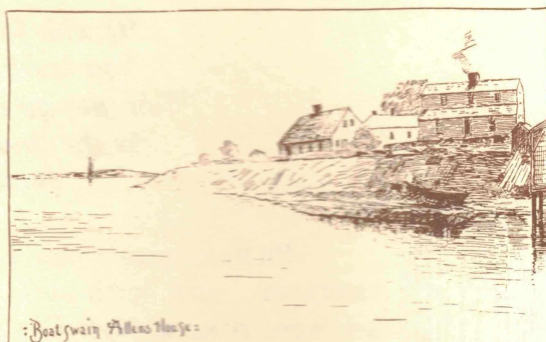


The Jaffrey Cottage

in 1969, had a heavy symmetrical facade which suggested its owner's prominence. Like many buildings of the nascent **Colonial** era, its interior displayed an unpainted, timber-frame construction. The massive beams of early homes often came from trees felled and hewn on site, with boards and clapboards produced at local water-powered sawmills. When painted, exteriors were daubed in earth tones, including muted red and ochre.

Houses of this period, like Portsmouth's extant c 1664 Richard Jackson house and New Castle's long-lost George Walton's Inn, (his second), located not far from the Trefethen School but described in accounts of the 1682-3 witchcraft scare known as the "Stone-Throwing Devil", originally had modest diamond-paned, leaded-glass casement windows with interior walls finished with boards. Older houses, Albee notes, tended to face southeast for exposure to sunlight. Chimneys were generally centered and ponderous. Roofs, often

steeply-pitched, were either shed, like the Jaffrey and Jackson houses, or gambrel, as detailed on the two-story Inn, George Walton's first inn, located near Fort Point. Additions known as *lean-tos* were common, sprouting here and there from the building block as need dictated.



The Boatswain Allen House

The early Boatswain Allen House, once located at the river end of Cranfield Street, was noted for its *lean-tos*. The *saltbox* shape is perhaps the most beloved form of *lean-to*. This was pragmatic architecture built by pragmatic people, so ornamentation was minimal and form pliable.

The 17th Century discovery of the lost Roman cities of Herculaneum and Pompeii generated a fashion for classical proportions and embellishment, eventually filtering from England to the Colonies. As the Colonial style evolved into the **Georgian** era after 1730, houses no longer simply had to protect but also to have grace. Doorways were often given emphasis with a stylized pilaster, entabla-

ture, and pediment trim, increasingly with a fanlight rectangular transom. A fine door-surround is reproduced on 33 Piscataqua Street...a model restoration.



33 Piscataqua Street

After 1725, leaded-glass casement windows gave way to 6 over 6, but more frequently 9 over 6, 9 over 9, or 12 over 12, light sash of wooden mullions. On upper floors, windows tend to be reduced in size and/or number of panes, lightening the facade. Hip roofs gained popularity. Chimneys might be doubled, and pushed toward the end of the house. The facade was a formal, balanced classical statement, defining street and town, so additions were more discreet, i.e. to the rear.

Built primarily for fishermen and other trades people, New Castle houses

of the time tend to be restrained when compared with Portsmouth, the area's mercantile center. Wealth prompted several Great Island families including the Wentworths, Sheafes, Atkinsons, and Jaffreys, to establish themselves in Portsmouth. New Castle had also yielded its influence as the capital. But based on design handbooks written by architects, and constructed by carpenters whose skill often included an eye for design, even the simplest New Castle houses possess a charm of the time.

The Georgian style developed into the **Federal** style after 1780, as post-revolution America wandered from English architectural tradition into a more individual style influenced by talents like Charles Bulfinch, Thomas Jefferson and Robert Adam. Named for the Federalist party then in power, this style emphasized classical proportions but with attenuated detailing. A low-pitched hip roof became popular, like that found on 158 Portsmouth Avenue and 23 Main Street.



158 Portsmouth Avenue

Other island homes continued the familiar shed roof form but now included refined Federal ornament. Chimneys often became slimmer, paired. Windows were usually 6 over 6. Colors were delicate and trimmed with white or buff. Wooden fences were common. After the late 18th century, exterior shutters gained popularity. Previously, shutters were inside as a substitute for curtains, for which cloth was expensive.

The ellipse became a popular architectural motif, particularly in stairway plan or halved, in fanlights. Houses were often built with an ell.

The construction of the three bridges (now two with a causeway) in 1821 created more direct access, though slowed by the nuisance of tolls, to Portsmouth. Portsmouth Avenue was carved out of fields that had been used for haying and the drying of fish on flakes. Portsmouth gained an immediate route to its primary harbor defense, Fort Constitution. Previously, the city relied on river-travel or the roundabout Little Harbor bridge which eventually "vanished" because of "carelessness and neglect" after the construction of the alternate way to the island...so reports writer Charles W. Brewster in "Rambles About Portsmouth" of 1869. It was not replaced until 1875.

The 1820-30's also brought a program of widening and straightening roads. Many had originally been footpaths. Several houses were moved, and

Albee bemoans the loss of much Great Island antiquity and character. "Modern improvements have obscured most of the ancient, external features of New Castle," he writes. "which once made it so quaint." This was, of course, long before the encroachments of many of the modern improvements of the 20th Century.

Despite the realignment of the 1830's, some streets like Steamboat Lane retain their original character. Over the years, however, one road vanished altogether. It branched from the Little Harbor entrance and ran inland to the northwest side of the village. By 1884, it was an overgrown path lined by pear trees and cellar-holes of abandoned homes.

New Castle's prosperity, moderate before the Revolution, began to decline. "*So it remained*", as Albee says, "for almost a hundred years until about the time the Wentworth Hotel and new 'free' bridge at Little Harbor opened." Limited economic means can be a great preserver of old buildings because the occupants lack the funds to replace or alter them. Of course, new buildings were added to the landscape throughout the town's history. 19th Century authors describe New Castle as predominantly *isolated, ancient,...even ruinous*. Charles W. Brewster writes:

"A more antique locality, previous to the consummation of that achievement in the march of improvement, the construction of the bridges, could not be

found in all New England. While many of the dwellings were spacious and comfortable, there were very few of modern construction. By far the larger proportion gave evidence of having been erected in the early part of the last century (-1700's). Many were so dilapidated by age as to be almost untenable, and others had reached that point in their history, and were undergoing the process of being converted into firewood." p.174.

(New Hampshire Publishing Company,
Somersworth, NH 1972)

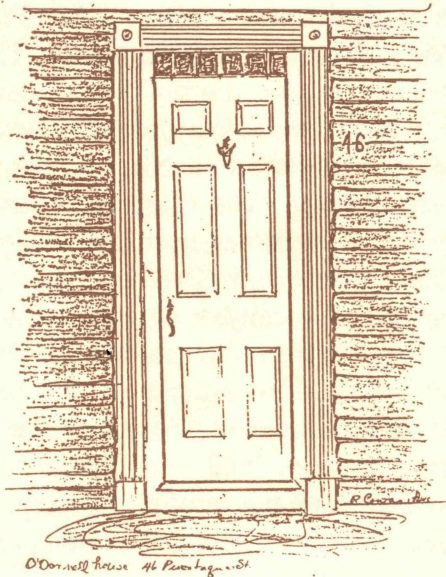
Houses "converted into firewood" generally were replaced at some point, causing confusion to later owners researching a structure's age. It is not uncommon today to see houses ascribed dates, found on maps or deeds that belong to a predecessor. Other dates may be a bit more *vanitas* than *veritas*. According to Albee, some houses retain only their old timber frame while others have had parts and floors added or removed. A few buildings mix several architectural periods, their appearance changed as money, taste, or even recycled materials determined.

In the 1820's but especially after 1830, the United States began to incorporate into its architecture, ideas borrowed from ancient Greece, just as it borrowed the ancient Greek idea of democracy. This style was the **Greek Revival**, popular until about the Civil

War. Wooden buildings were commonly painted white to suggest the marble of classical temples. Shutters were popular, often green. Also like temples, many new houses faced gable-end to the street. The original center-section of 150 Portsmouth Avenue is an example. Thick pilasters often fixed a building's corners and flanked the doorway, which might include sidelights, a transom, and perhaps an entablature. The effect was heavier than that in preceding neoclassical styles. Windows were typically 6 over 6. Once hand-crafted locally, moldings manufactured by time-saving planing machines were available to carpenters. Chimneys were characteristically doubled. Porches were common, and included wooden columns which reproduced or interpreted Greek orders. Fences were often part of a home's design.

Greek Revival buildings cover the countryside. The style provided the white church with box steeple typical of many Granite State towns, as well as the plantation-house with columns of the ante-bellum South. Older building styles were frequently "updated" by those who could afford to follow fashion. Many Colonial and Federal houses lost their former tints under a coat of white paint. The plainness of early homes seemed primitive to adherents of the new style, so blocky pilasters and an entablature, sometimes with a pediment, were added to numerous old entrances. Examples are found especially along New Castle's

downtown, Main Street; on 22 and 42 Piscataqua Street; on 28 and 91 Cranfield Street; and a pristine variation of Greek Revival detailing, on 46 Piscataqua Street.



46 Piscataqua Street

After the white Greek Revival came a heady succession of earthy-colored architectural styles throughout the **Victorian** era, including the **Egyptian**, **Gothic**, **Italianate**, **Queen Anne**, and **Second Empire (or Mansard)**. The latter produced the island's Wentworth Hotel, built in 1874 and periodically enhanced. Victorian design extravagance embedded the plain old cape-style house at 39 Wentworth Road. It was hardly alone. The 1876 Centennial, however, gradually reawakened the United States to its architectural roots in the Colonial

style. Inspired by earthy provincial buildings like the Jackson and Boatswain Allen houses, particularly their heavy roofs, substantial masonry, and picturesque "lean-tos", a style known today as the *Shingle Style* was born. A grand example of the Shingle Style was an estate christened *Frost Fields*. It stood approximately where the Common is today and near the site of a stylistic ancestor, *The Jaffrey Cottage*.

The **Colonial Revival** style, was based more closely on the simple forms of America's past, but often with eclectic and exaggerated Colonial, Georgian, or Federal detailing. The exotic colors of Victorian architecture, essential to its design, disappeared under a reborn taste for white. The Wentworth Hotel is an example. A considerable Colonial Revival addition was added to the now lost home of George Jaffrey. Period enlargements and detailing were added to others. Fashion went full circle ...namely, what was old was new again ...just as the ancient, insular village of New Castle became fashionable with visitors to the Wentworth Hotel or those who developed it as a Portsmouth suburb. And, despite a few experiments in the **Modern** style and numerous in the **Ranch** style house, the Colonial style continues to inspire design, with relative authenticity, of many new houses on singular "Olde Great Island".

William Tarbell

Gateway to History



With the discovery and exploration of the shores of New England, the particular geological features of the coast of what is now New Hampshire and Southern Maine shaped the nature of the people who settled here and their descendants' future.

The Isles of Shoals, seven miles off the coast, provided a safe protected area for the fishermen and merchants who were the original group of Anglo-Saxon inhabitants. With the exploration of the Piscataqua River and its estuaries, the first settlement was established in

1623 at the remote point of land nearest the Isles of Shoals, now named Odiorne's Point, in New Castle (now Rye), New Hampshire. Surrounded by water and marsh, it gave the settlers some sense of security from the native population.

The first contacts with the Indians were friendly. Indians did not really inhabit the Piscataqua area, but rather used it as a vast hunting ground. The chief Indian over a territory is named *The Sagamore*, the current name for one of the nearby creeks feeding the Piscataqua Basin.

With the first settlement in place, the next nearest, defensible point of land was Great Island, now New Castle, and specifically, Jaffrey Point, currently Fort Stark. With level tillable land next to it, the first settlement on New Castle was probably here.

As this area did not have a good deep water harbor protected from the sea, another major point of land on Great Island, known as Fort Point or the site of what was to become Fort William & Mary and later Fort Constitution, became the major center of activity.

At this location fishing and merchant vessels could be protected from the sea and easily unloaded to and from the mainland. The area nearby Fort Point was undoubtedly the first major settlement on New Castle, and through those

early years, spread westward... upriver. Finally, the site of Strawberry Banke, now Portsmouth, proved to be a safe and more desirable place for growth and expansion. The settlement at New Castle remains pretty much as it has been for the past three hundred years.

Most of those early dwellings have long since disappeared. Others have been extensively modified and bear some resemblance to the original structure. More modern structures have replaced some early houses and newer buildings have been placed in-between the older ones.

The settlement though, was, and still remains, close to the river where mariners, fishermen, merchants, and those who provided local trades, such as blacksmiths, coopers, and carpenters resided.

With the establishment of more formal fortifications, shipbuilding, and the era of large mercantile operations, the more affluent families moved westward to Portsmouth, leaving New Castle to house the labor for these operations. Their legacy is in the dwellings they left behind. Later generations were to be of the same stock: mariners, merchants, tradesmen, shipbuilders and military and government personnel.

In the Heart of New Castle

I

The heart of most New England towns is the *common* and the *church*. New Castle's only surviving church is approximately where original churches were built centuries ago. The small old Frost Family Cemetery, is situated directly across the street.

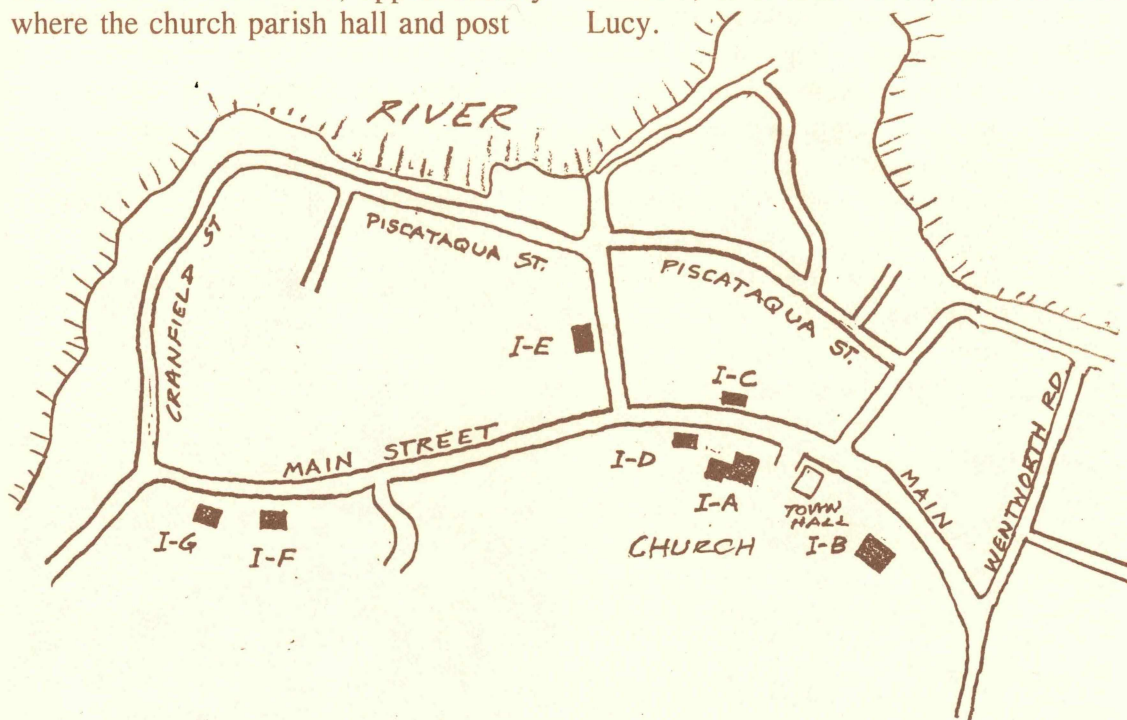
The first school was located where the current town hall is situated. A later school was constructed adjacent to the church on the other side, approximately where the church parish hall and post

office buildings are currently located.

The town hall was built around the turn of the century and now houses the town offices and the Police Station.

A new Fire Station was erected in 1968 and is the home of the New Castle Volunteer Fire Department.

Behind the large parking lot is the church's parsonage, called Great Island Manse. It is the home of the current minister, J. Donald Silva, and his wife Lucy.



I-A New Castle Church

I-B Lilac Ledges

I-C The Little House

I-G The Trefethen House

I-D The Thomas Follansby House

I-E The William Trundy House

I-F Ann Smart's Cottage

New Castle Congregational Church

I-A

1835

Main Street

The New Castle Congregational Church building, currently the town's only house of worship, was dedicated in 1835 and completed a few years later.

When early Royalist settlers began homesteading around the fort, England's Charles I provided a church. Rev. Robert Jordan of Anglican faith, believed to be the first pastor, arrived in 1640. With England's granting of a charter establishing the township of Great Island, in 1693, Rev. Benjamin Woodridge was appointed minister, though he was already serving. Rev. Samuel Moody preached from 1694 to 1703. This first church, deteriorating, was sold in 1704 and torn down in 1706.

The town was spreading out and in 1704 its second church, still Anglican, was erected facing east at the end of Main Street, by the Town Common on land in front of the present church. The silver bell rescued from the old church would peal anew.

But problems arose. The late 1700's and early 1800's saw disinterest and many former church faithfuls leaving to worship with the Free Will Baptists on Windmill Hill (the small white building: "The Old Libra-

ry"). So fifty-six inhabitants met in April, 1827, voted unanimously to form the Congregational Society in New Castle, and the next year purchased from the town, the church and land for a consideration of \$ 130.43.

1828 was a year of changes -- the existing church was dismantled and construction of the third and present church began. In 1838 it was voted to buy a new bell, which still calls villagers to worship. Another house of worship was the Advent Chapel, Vennard's Court, built circa 1830 and torn down in 1922.



A New Castle Walkabout

In August 1929, a jubilant celebration of its 100 years filled the church at both morning and evening services.

Another celebration in 1978, commemorating the church's 150th anniversary, included the publishing of "An Old Church In An Island Town", written by Anna B. White, who ably and beautifully has preserved the church's history.

Over the years, the thousands of dollars from sales of the Great Island Cook Book, published by the Church Guild in 1965, and donations from church members and friends have made

possible the building of the Parish Hall, as well as funding church renovations, repairs and various needs.

Inside the church, treasures of its past include the Oxford Bible and an Anglican pewter communion set.

The Church is now an affiliate of the United Church of Christ. The present pastor, J. Donald Silva, in August 1992 celebrated his 25th year ministering not only to parishioners but to all islanders.

The Church welcomes all to Sunday morning services at 9:45 a.m. and to other events which occur during the year.



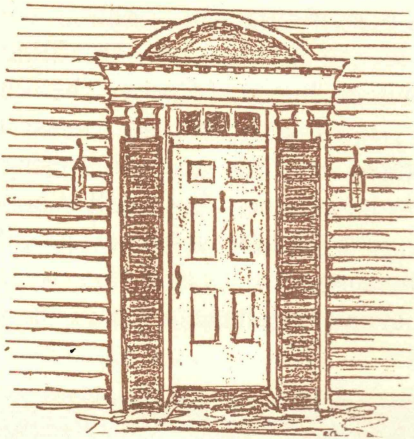
Lilac Ledges

I-B

1820

23 Main Street

Judith & John Udaloy



In 1666, this land was granted to Edmond Green, and it was his daughter Sarah Kean, who sold the property to William Pepperrell, Jr. in 1728. Prior to that sale a small parcel was sold to William Pepperrell, Sr., by his son-in-law, John Watkins. The latter parcel became known as *Trant's Gardens* and the aggregate land eventually became the property at 23 Main Street.

In 1820 Thomas F. Foye bought the land and built the building. An Andrew W. Bell loaned Mr. Foye money to build the house, and he

probably lived here for about eight years. In 1828 there is another mortgage, this time from Foye to John and Joseph B. Ball. What happened next is not known, but Thos. Tarlton bought the land and buildings from the Bells in 1830.

Not much is known about the property until almost 100 years later when George Warren, from Manchester, NH bought the house as a summer home. In 1935 he added the additional piece of land known as *Trant's Garden*. This is the existing northeast corner next to the Town Hall, a part of which is now Bicentennial Park and the land where the fire station is located.



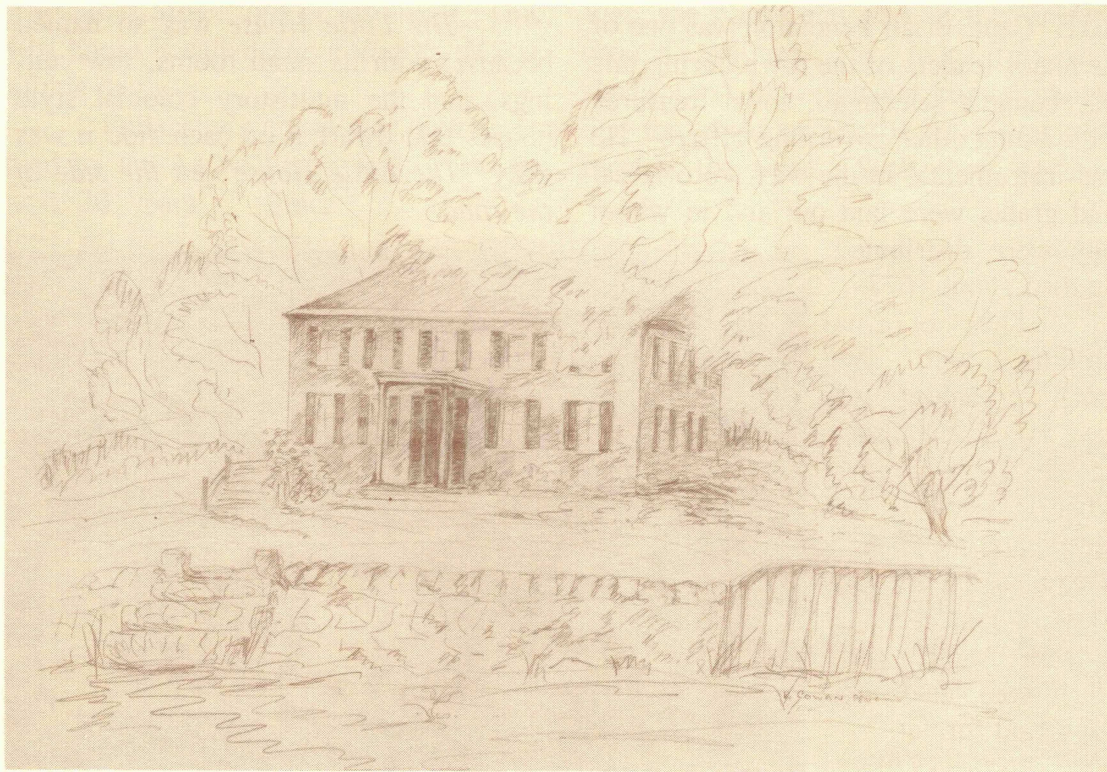
A New Castle Walkabout

When Mr. Warren died, the place was sold at auction for estate purposes. Perhaps a true story is that a John Quirin who was at that auction, purchased the property for his wife as a surprise. His wife was one of the daughters of George Warren. A deed dated 1959 shows that it was in her name at that time. John Quirin died in 1972 and Louise Warren Quirin in 1976.

During the time of the Warrens and Quirins the gardens were greatly enhanced and the beautiful lilacs and many specimen shrubs and trees planted, most of which still exist. The lilacs

came from the Gov. Wentworth house on Little Harbor in Portsmouth. Those lilacs are supposed to have been the very first lilacs to have come to the New World. In addition to the splendid gardens, the Warrens and Quirins introduced peacocks and many other exotic birds complete with birdhouses and cages.

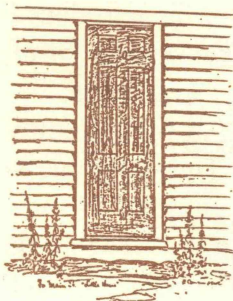
In 1977, Judith and John Udaloy purchased the property. They continue to restore the house and gardens to their former grace and elegance. The birds are gone but most of the plantings and beautiful flowers still endure for the pleasure of all who visit.



The Little House

*I-C
c. 1675*

*70 Main Street
Michael Lewis*



One of the oldest houses on the island is this one and a half story, clap-board house which sits on a 1660 land grant to Caleb Pendleton, commonly referred to as The Little House.

Caleb was a son of Captain Brian Pendleton, born, c 1600, who came to Great Island about 1651. Capt. Brian Pendleton was one of the major leaders of the town during this era, being a selectman, town treasurer and holding other governing offices. He was instrumental in the way the original land grants were laid out and to whom they were distributed. He died about 1677.

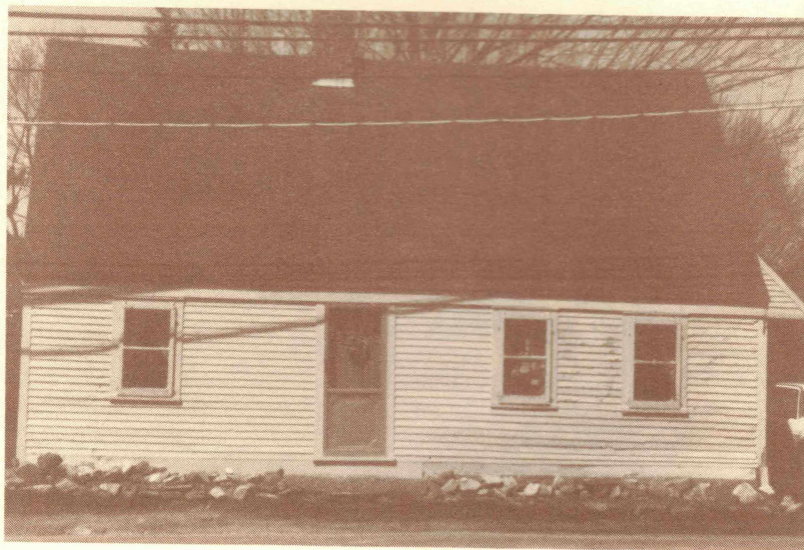
The original building, with shed roof, probably was used as a fish house in its earliest years. When a section was added in the rear, it resembled a Cape Cod house with a summer kitchen. Another addition completed the Cape Cod format.

In the 1970's, a

roof dormer was added at the back. The original central chimney still stands. The house's foundation is of fieldstone. In the dirt cellar occasional outcroppings of the underlying granite can be seen.

Tenants have included the George B. Ricker family. Eight of their children were born in this house. In the following years, five generations of the Becker family owned the house, or lived here. Charles E., Charles H., Forrest, Walter, and Peter. Many of the earliest residents were fishermen.

The Little House was so named because, with its small rooms, low ceilings, and the multistory colonial style houses that dwarf it on each side it was truly "*The Little House*" by the side of the road.



The Thomas Follansby House

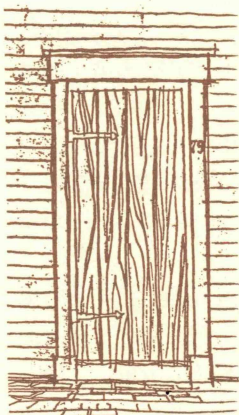
79 Main Street

Karin & Peter Gil

I-D

1668/9

Henry Foss, 1776



Undoubtedly one of the oldest houses in New Castle, it was built between 1667 and 1669 by a joyner named Thomas Follansby. He and his family lived in it for about two years, when he moved to another house in New Castle at 117 Piscataqua Street, one he also built. This first house is called *The Follansby House* to this day.

Follansby's house was then occupied by the Aaron Ferris family for the next 20 years. Since then at least seventeen different families have owned and lived in it. Among its owners were a shipwright, two carpenters, an artist, and a veteran of the American Revolutionary War named Edward Tredick. Tredick was mustered into the Continental Army on September 30, 1776, at Fort William & Mary in New Castle. He owned the house for 42

years, from 1779 to 1821.

In the late 1800's, the house served as a ship chandlery, a post office, and a store owned by Charles C. Tarlton. The Tarlton family owned this property for approximately 100 years.

In the early 1900's, it was a poolhall, a tea room, a restaurant, a home, then in 1931 it was a second hand antiques shop owned by Arthur Beavers.

Rumor has it that during the Civil War, the house was part of the "underground railway" to hide run-away slaves; and more current rumor claims that the ghost of one of the slaves still inhabits the place. Still others contend



that the ghost is of a man who was electrocuted in the house. That which is known with certainty, however, is that one of its occupants in modern history played music as loudly as possible during every Sunday church service next door; and another occupant, a very proper, middle-aged, highly educated lady took a shotgun and sent a few "messages" to her "paramour" while he sat in his rocking chair in a house just down the street. The people of New Castle have always been known to have an independent spirit.

The Follansby house is one of the finest examples of the type of house that

dotted the New Castle landscape for over three hundred years.

The original building maintains its original shape and style. Discreet additions have been made behind the building. They cannot be seen from the front facing the street, but the house now boasts 8 good size rooms as well as a large rock garden, also behind the house. Restoration has been done with skill and tender loving care.

Recent owners include Theodore Frost, Herman White, George Humphreys, Paul King, Ruth Conrad, Deborah & Kevin Callahan, and currently Karin & Peter Gil.



The William Trundy House

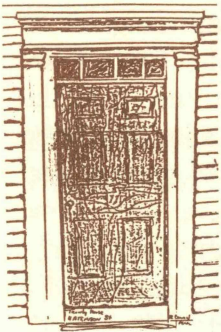
I-E

11 Atkinson Street

c 1725

Linn King

William Trundy, 1776



The Trundy House has several features of those built many centuries ago; notably, hand-hewn beams, nails and chimney bricks. It was built on land originally part of a grant to Henry Sherburne in 1651. The tract was purchased in

1722 by John Trundy from John Underwood. This purchase included the entire west side of Atkinson Street from the river to what is now the back yard of 85 Main Street (Jack Miller).

The first homestead, probably built around 1725, was a two story, four room building with attic and cellar. There is a classic doorway, original cornice and center chimney with four fireplaces. Many Trundy families lived here. Fifty years later, in 1764, more land was purchased by William Trundy from Ben Underwood. It was during this time that old records show the quartering of soldiers here during the War of the Revolution. Later in the century, the name Enoch Muckleberry appears on deeds and land records.

In the eighteen hundreds, the house was converted into a two family dwelling. The original stairway is behind the hall by the front door and goes from the cellar to the attic. Both attic and cellar still have hand-hewn beams and old nails. The main chimney of old brick has an open arched base. A second stairway was put in on the right hand side and more rooms added.

Many names appear on old deeds and mortgages; Treferhan, Tarlton, White and others - all related. Richard Poole purchased the left side in 1919, and Tress White owned the right side. Frank King bought the right side in 1925 and lived there until his death. His son Linn King and family still own that side. In the 1980's they bought the left side owned by Kendrick Poole.

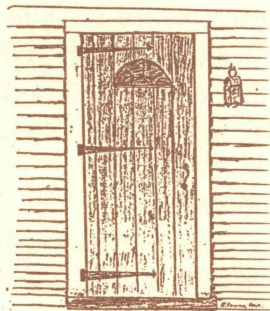


Ann Smart's Cottage

I-F
c 1700

145 Main Street

Susan & Roderick MacDonald



Similar to many houses on Great Island throughout the last three hundred years, this is a fine example of a *Center Cape*, with post and beam construction, central chimney and charming style.

The actual date of construction is unknown, but it was probably around 1700. Although the original house had only two rooms, there seems to be some belief that it was originally shared by two families.

At some point between 1870 and 1900, a back room was added to the southeast corner of the house. Although the original addition served as a bed-room, it was converted to a kitchen. An open porch was added to the southwest corner in the early 20th century.

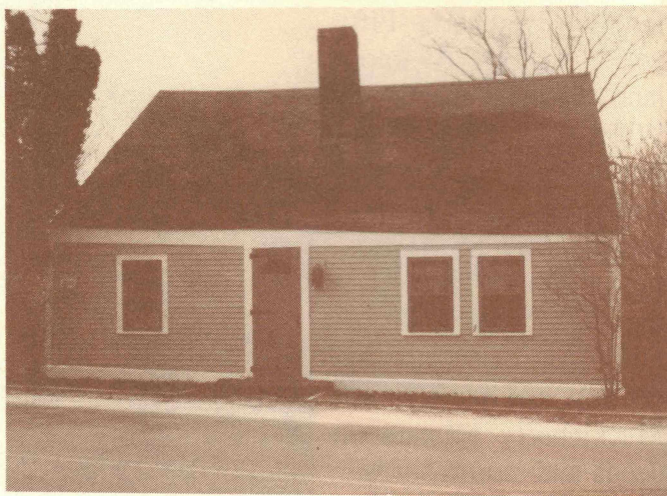
In the late 1800's it was owned by Philip Yeaton, son Joseph, and then daughter Edie Towner, a relative of the present owner's mother. It was then purchased by Ann Wentworth Smart.

In her younger years,

Ann lived at the fort, as the daughter of a surgeon there during the Civil War. She was also a poet well known to the seacoast area. Ann, a relative of the present owner's father, used the dwelling as a summer home and gave it the name "Quarterdeck Cottage." Upon her death, the house was passed to Lula Eams, a long time companion of Ann Smart. Pauline & John MacDonald purchased the dwelling from Lula Eams in 1940-41.

Pauline and John had the house's roof line raised and a full dormer added to the back of the house to create a second floor. The open porch was closed in and a basement was dug. Most of this work was completed between 1941-1943.

In 1984, the house passed to their grandson, Roderick M. MacDonald and his wife Susan O.E. MacDonald.



Since 1984, the dwelling has been undergoing extensive renovation that continues to the present. The front of the house has been restored to its original off center cape appearance (as revealed by

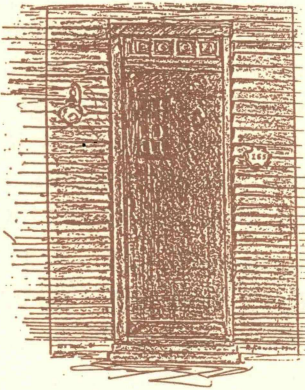
photographs of the home dating back to the last century.) The interior, all rooms and the fireplaces are being restored as closely as possible to period appearance.

The Trefethen House

155 Main Street

Janet & John Harrigan

*I-G
post 1776*

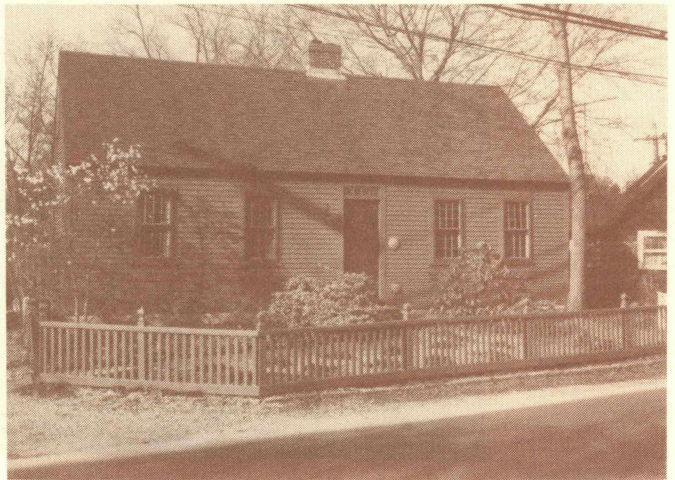


The meticulously restored story-and-a-half Cape cottage is an example of the many modest homes of fishermen that dotted Great Island centuries ago. A simple floor plan of two rooms downstairs and two upstairs, dominated by a large central chimney, was the most popular design. Reputedly built shortly after the American Revolution, the house was in the Trefethen family for the next hundred years.

When prosperity waned in the village in the early 20th Century, the house began to be rented by absentee owners and gradually lost its charm as deterioration and ruin took their toll. Lacking modern conveniences, it needed loving care to regain its pristine beauty.

It was owned by Lewellyn Trefethen followed by daughter Helena, and then Bessie Williams.

In 1978 Steven Straw, an art dealer and antiques merchant, a native New Hampshire man, saw its possibilities and carefully restored it, inside and out, adding the first complete bathroom. The interior panelling, the period-style wall coverings, custom and antique moldings and other architectural details were inserted to produce as authentic a reproduction as possible of the original eighteenth century plan.



At the Mouth of the River Wentworth Road & Walbach Street

II

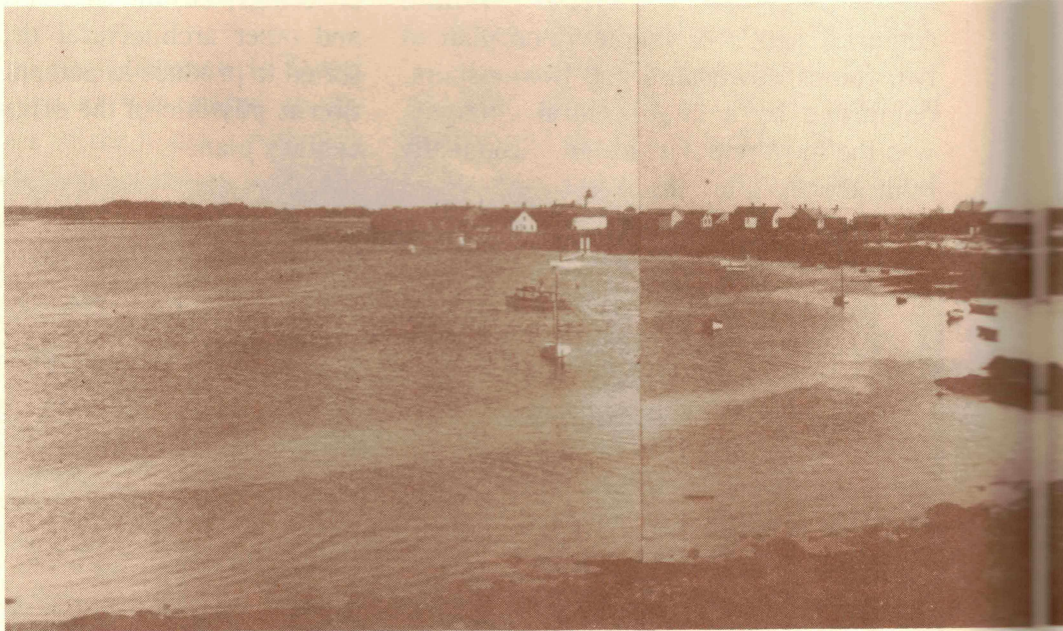
A foot path wide enough for oxen appeared between the settlement at the southern end of New Castle, called the *Outalong* and the settlement at the northern end of the island, called the *Inalong*. In the land grants of the mid 1600's, it is referred to as The King's Highway. It later became known as Wentworth Road, for a while Barrett Road, and finally back to Wentworth Road.

At the dividing line between the river and the sea, the major geographic feature is Fort Point, "which has been alternately fortified and neglected since the earliest settlement. It was called 'The Castle', then Fort William & Mary, and

during the Revolution, Fort Hancock; and when it was rebuilt in 1808, probably received its present name, Fort Constitution." ¹

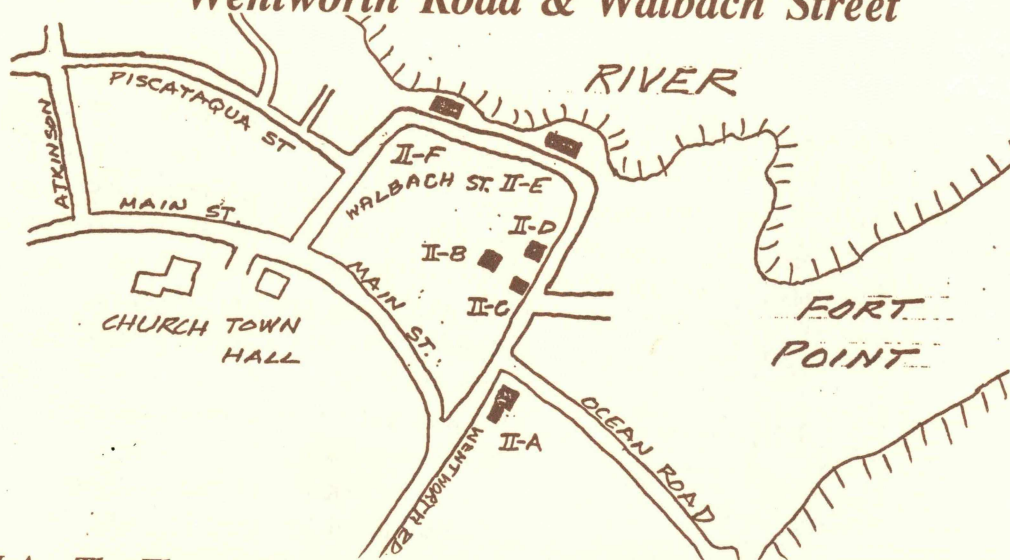
The first real concentration of dwellings was in this location. As more and more people came, the undeveloped parts of Great Island were settled. Many varieties of service buildings, warehouses, and individual homes were here. With transient groups passing through, there were the taverns and hostleries to quench a thirst and provide temporary quarters to mariners, new settlers and the body politic.

1. *New Castle - Historic and Picturesque*: Albee



*At the Mouth of the River
Wentworth Road & Walbach Street*

II



II-A *The Thomas Haywood House*

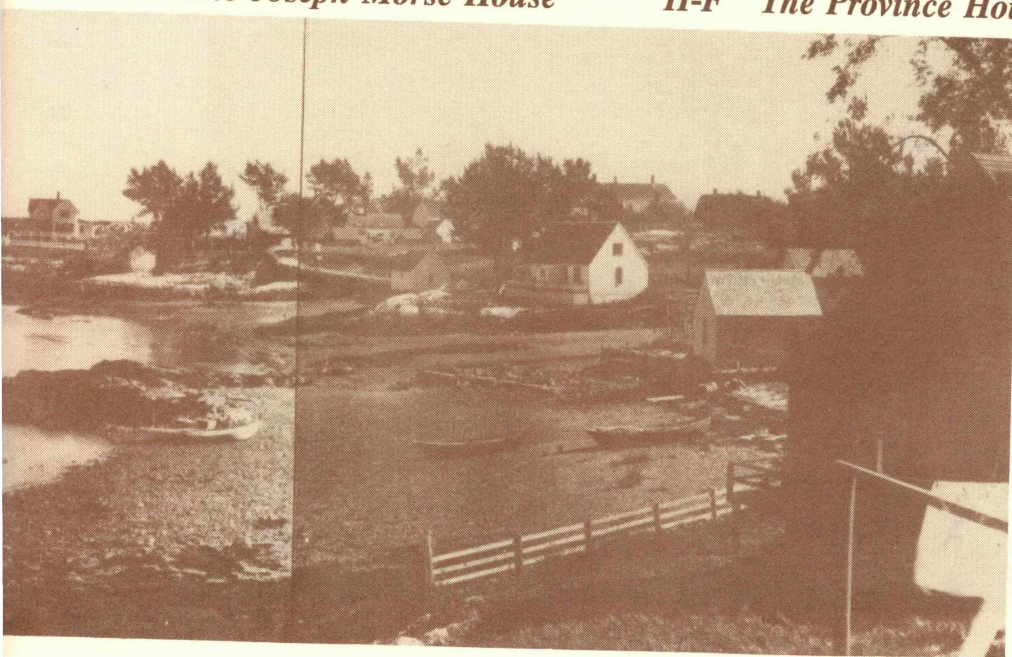
II-B *The Ivan Meloon House*

II-C *The Joseph Morse House*

II-D *The Thomas Bell House*

II-E *George Walton's Tavern*

II-F *The Province House*

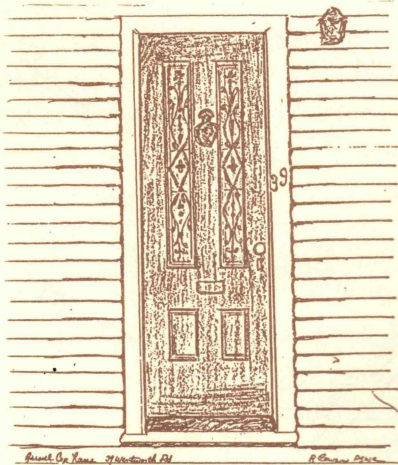


The Thomas Haywood House

II-A

*39 Wentworth Road
Susanna & Russell Cox*

mid 1600's



This home at the corner of Ocean Street and Wentworth Road is one of the oldest buildings in the Town of New Castle. Old records (both deed and maps) clearly show a building on that site as early as the late 1600's. The structure of the oldest part of the house reveals hand-hewn studs and pine siding with a lap joint and feather edge, produced by an up and down saw.

The house has had many owners including Reed Vennard in 1800.



A New Castle Walkabout

The grandfather of Geraldine Haywood, Thomas Haywood, bought the property around 1882. It was then a one story cape. It probably had three or four small rooms with a porch on the ocean-side. He made extensive changes as subsequent photos reveal, and brought it into the Victorian Era, with an added second floor, usable attic with fancy trim, small greenhouse and a pagoda.

Geraldine & Douglas Woodward made further changes during the 1940's.

Added were four rooms, a two car garage, and a connecting breezeway. Susanna and Russell Cox bought the property in 1987 and made numerous changes to the living area inside the house.

Photographs over the last one hundred and twenty years reveal the several major changes made to modernize and adapt the house for family needs, while taking care to preserve its history. We are fortunate to have pictures of the house in the various stages of design.

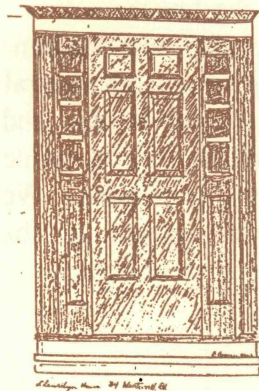


The Ivan Meloon House

II-B
c 1855

34 Wentworth Road

The Llewellyn & Heronemus Families



Noted New Castle historian, Ivan Meloon, who lived in this house, traced it back to the original grant. He was born in New Castle in 1862, and died in 1948, at age 86 years old.

This natural shingle house is in a beautiful setting and is surely one of the most appealing houses in New Castle. It has a look of colonial New Castle, with its twin beautiful capped chimneys on either end of the house.

George Walton was the first land owner in the mid 1600's. A list of subsequent owners reads like a "Who's Who of New Castle".

James West (husband of George Walton's daughter Marila), in 1665; and Daniel Morton in 1669. Then Joseph Morse in 1676, and Obediah Morse in 1679, purchased "... a dwelling house, out houses and shops" on one half acre of land. In 1717 Theodore Atkinson, a well known name, obtained this property and sold it to Thomas Bell in 1744.

Bell's heirs sold to George Frost, four (4) acres and a house in 1777. George Frost sold to Henry Amazeen in 1801. Bell's heirs sold to Curtis in 1819; Curtis to Knowles and Curtis in 1832; Laighton to Cooper and Martin, in 1851; and then to Samuel Rand in 1856.

In 1862, the heirs of Frances Rand sold to James Meloon and in 1875, he sold it to James Meloon. In 1913 the will of Elizabeth Rand left the house to Ivan Meloon. All owners and exchanges have not been listed here but are on record.

After the death of Ivan Meloon, the homestead was purchased by the late Mr. & Mrs. Philip Robinson, and is now owned by her two daughters, Mrs. Stanley Llewellyn and Mrs. William Heronemus.



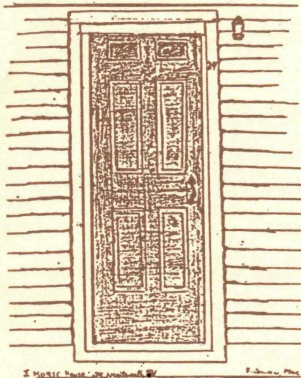
The Joseph Morse House

II-C

1676

24 Wentworth Road

Josephine & Ralph Feder



This small Cape Cod cottage was built by Joseph Morse in 1676. It is quite possible that the house was not originally intended for a residence but for drying fish. At that time

New Castle did have non-resident fishermen. Leading to this possibility is the fact that the cellar of this house has open hearths at the base of the chimneys.

The house looks on the outside like any twentieth century-built Cape Cod

house. The original rough hewn posts and beams have been exposed on the first floor. There are wooden pegs and bark on some of the beams, which were hewn, with an adze.

For many years various Meloons owned this house. The small property (0.08 acre) was surrounded by Meloons, including the historian Ivan and his nephew Postmaster Everett Scott Meloon.

There is no information regarding the age of the Shed but it was home at one time for a cow belonging to a Mr. Schuler. He also kept his car parked on the east side of the house and constructed a ramp which is still there. The street, Wentworth Road or Wentworth Avenue,

has been known as Barrett Road and more picturesquely as "Battle Alley".

The house has been in the same family since 1939 when it was purchased (on the day the Submarine 'Squalus' sank) by Jeannette Grover and James C. Carr. It is now owned by their daughter and her husband Josephine & Ralph Feder. It has been a summer home for this family.



Battle Alley

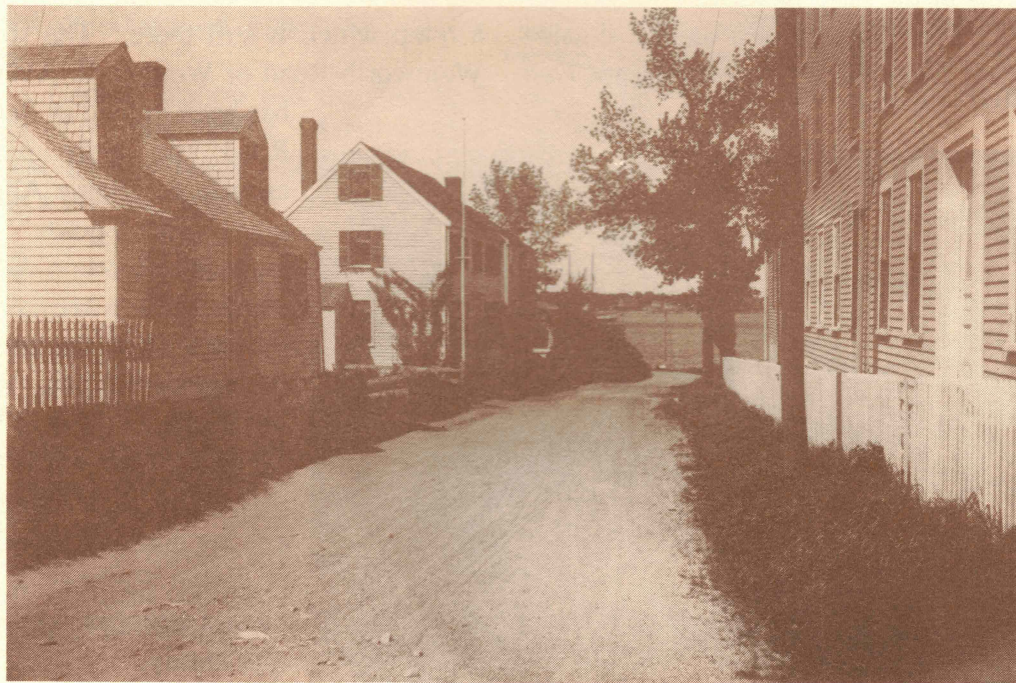
Below is an old picture looking north down Wentworth Road toward the Piscataqua river. This portion of the road was known as Battle Alley.

Battle Alley gets its name from the time when returning ships, reaching port, paid their crew. The wives and family members would intercept the group at this location, prior to them visiting local taverns for "a few *quick ones*." The immediate encounter by those who had intercepted them resulted in some spectacular fireworks.

The house in the left foreground is *The Joseph Morse House*, now owned by

Josephine & Ralph Feder. The house further down the road is *The Thomas Bell House*, now owned by Katherine & Simon Harling.

Thomas Haywood, who owned the house across Ocean Street, had come from Boston where he was in the restaurant and entertainment business. He owned and operated the *Cerro Gordo Hotel*, located in the large building shown on the right side of the picture. It was positioned just inside the present wire fence and just past the entrance to the Coast Guard Station.



The Thomas Bell House

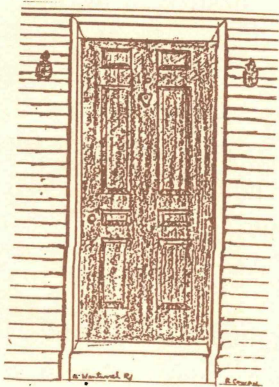
II-D

16 Wentworth Road

Katherine & Simon Harling

Mid 1600's

Thomas Bell, 1776



In the early 1600's Robert Mason was granted land on both sides of Wentworth Road, from Main Street almost to the Piscataqua River. He died in 1635, never having visited the property. About 1649, two acres of this land was "laid out" to George Walton.

In 1665, Walton deeded his land, house, brew house, warehouse, and wharves to his son-in-law, Edward West. The property passed to Joseph Morse,

Theodore Atkinson, Sr. and Jr., and in 1774, to Thomas Bell, merchant and Captain of the Fort.

It is believed Bell kept a store in this building. His account book, full of very interesting material, is in the New Castle Archives at the Town Hall.

Over the years Bells and later Meloons became owners of various portions of the property.

Recent owners of the Thomas Bell House have been Rufus Emery and Mary Woodman and family. Formerly a two and a half story house, it was completely renovated after a recent fire. It now is a three story building. The present owners are Katherine and Simon Harling.



George Walton's Tavern

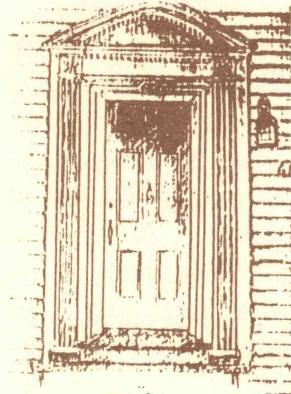
II-E

61 Walbach Street

c 1647

The Virginia (Hart) Horner Family

William Jones, 1776



George Walton, one of the more colorful of the early residents, opened the town's first licensed tavern here around 1649. He was an inn-keeper, vintner and tailor.

He was also an able business man and especially adept at the acquisition of Great Island real estate. His *Ordinary* provided a warm place, a bit of the spirits, and a chance to get rid of sea-legs.

One story is that five men are said to have met on the evening of January 13, 1652, and for some reason best

known to themselves, destroyed most of the invaluable earliest records of Great Island - very possibly seventeen or eighteen years of priceless written history.

Walton lost his license later that year for keeping a disorderly house. A few years later his son-in-law, Edward West, opened a tavern, "At Ye Sign off Ye Anchor".

Walton's original grant of land extended from the river almost up to Main street. When Wentworth Road was laid out in 1663, it extended through this land grant. Walton was compensated for his loss by being given "....a rocky hill." According to Kenneth Maxam, this was *Bos'n's Hill*, but Frederick White says it was probably the Slide, the lower part of Bos'n's Hill.



A New Castle Walkabout

Walton also acquired the 100 acres in the northwest part of town called *Muskito Hall*, and it was in his inn there, somewhere in the vicinity of the present school, that the famous episode of "The Stone Throwing Devils" took place in the late 1600's.

The present Walbach Street house retains an early plan, with numerous additions to accommodate more spacious and modern living. The original structure was probably a one story, long building with single rooms flanking both sides of the central chimney. There are very low ceilings throughout the house and a large living-room fireplace in the colonial style with bake-oven, cooking crane and other early implements.

As more space was required, additions were added to the east and west of the main structure and upward to include a second and partial third floor. The Hart family purchased the property in 1923 and added the kitchen wing, the porches on the water side, a finished third floor with dormer windows, and the beautifully reproduced classical doorway on the street side.

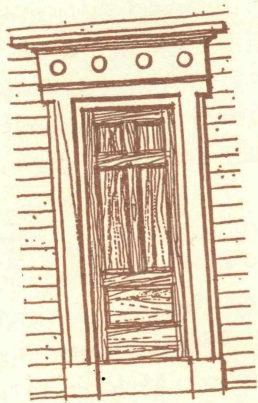
A number of local family names appear as inhabitants of the house over the years, including Sheafe, Tarleton, Amazeen, Tredick, White, Frost, Trefethen and James Madison Meloon, father of Ivan, and grandfather of Everett Scott Meloon, New Castle postmaster, 1924-1962.



The Province House

II-F
c mid 1600's

33 Walbach Street
Winnie & Kenneth Caswell



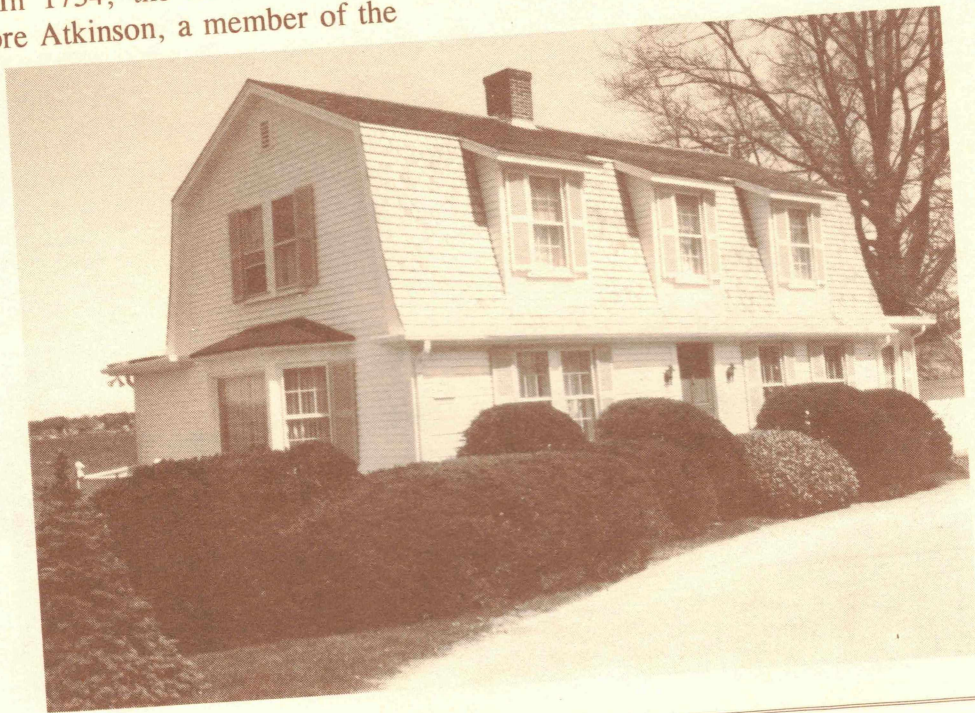
This house was built in the mid 1600's near the outer entrance to Fort Constitution. After the Civil War, around 1870, the house was dismantled and one half was moved to Kittery, Maine, and the other half moved to its present location on Walbach Street.

In 1734, the house belonged to Theodore Atkinson, a member of the

Governor's Council and Secretary of the Province. Council members met here; thus it became known as the Province House.

The house also was referred to as *the Old Sloop* because the cellar beams came from an old ship. Old pictures show that the house had a steep, sloping roof. However, in 1923, the owner had the roof changed to a gambrel design.

In 1969, the Caswells bought the house from Gladys & George Calkins. Other owners were Jonathan Emery, Elizabeth & Forrest Becker, Myrtis and Harley Remick.



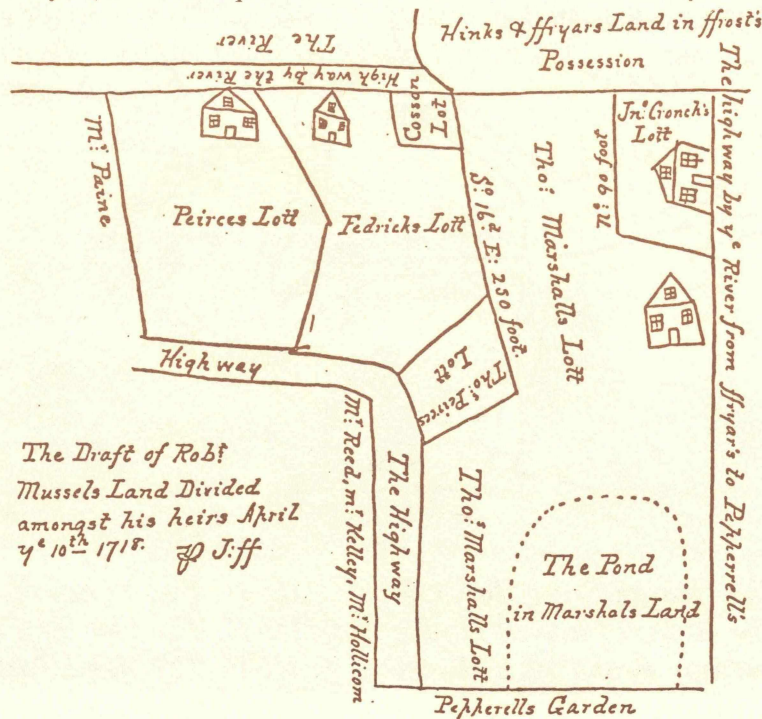
They called themselves fishermen or more elegantly mariners. They came to *Grete Island* and they *dug in*. It didn't make any difference that Capt. John Mason of Norfolk, England already held a grant issued under the Crown Seal of Charles I. Many settlers like Robert Mussell acquired land by *musselling* in on the John Mason Grant, or namely laying claim to land by squatter's rights. Mussell, born in England about 1589, claimed considerable land in Kittery and on Great Island.

By 1640, Mussell's claims included this four acre parcel on Great Island. The land ran north to south from the river to the *Highway*, (as Piscataqua

Street was referred to in early deeds), and from Atkinson Street to the property on the corner of Walbach and Piscataqua Streets.

Town records show considerable bickering, fines imposed, and fines remitted dealing with *Old Mussell* as he was occasionally referred to. In July 1660, at his request, it was recorded in the town book that he had been in possession of his house and surrounding four acres for fifteen or sixteen years.

In that same year, matters were settled and Robert Mussell was granted the disputed land. In spite of spats with the town officials, Mussell was a respected citizen. He held the post of water



bailiff for almost two decades and also served on the grand jury.

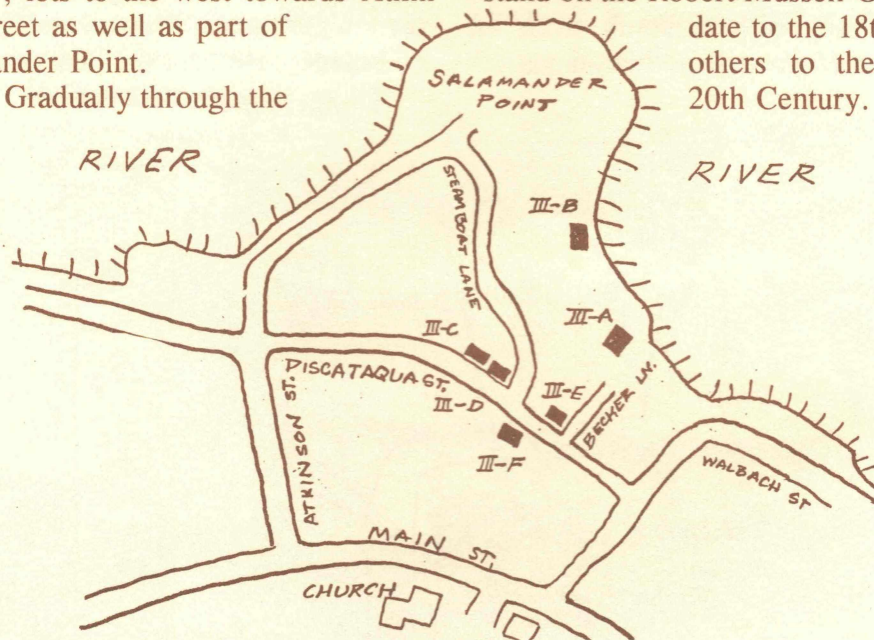
In Mussell's 1663 will, daughter Audrey was named "...sole heire of all." When he died in 1674 at about 85 years of age, Audrey inherited "...all" and through her two daughters, the Mussell properties in Kittery and New Castle went to her five grandchildren and their spouses.

The Mussell heirs had articles of agreement drawn up in 1718 for the division of their inheritances. A detailed (albeit rather distorted) map of the so-called Mussell Grant was drafted as part of that agreement. It appears that some of the land had already changed hands; namely, lots to the west towards Atkinson Street as well as part of Salamander Point.

Gradually through the

rest of the century and into the next, the larger lots shown on the 1718 map were divided and deeded into smaller parcels. Two of the four houses sketched on that early map still stand. Mrs. John Seybolt's house at 24 Salamander Lane is very likely the *Jn^o Cranch* house to which Robert Mussell referred in 1660 when he clinched ownership by having the property recorded. David and Joan Brillhart's house, *The Lux-Peirce House* at 12 Steamboat Lane (the large house at the corner), is sketched in on "Peirces Lott." This house was probably built between 1670 and 1700.

Today, besides the two 17th Century houses, there are fifteen others that stand on the Robert Mussell Grant. Some date to the 18th Century, others to the 19th and 20th Century.



III-A The George Frost House (2nd)

III-B The Robert Mussell House

III-C Grampy Prohaska's House

III-D The Abraham Shreefe House

III-E The George Frost House (1st)

III-F The Reed-Tarleton House

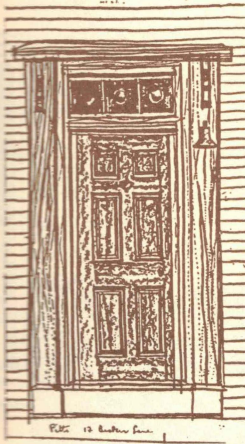
The George Frost House (2nd)

III-A

c. 1700's

*17 Becker Lane
Virginia & George Pitts*

George Frost's new house, 1776



This two and a half story colonial house with two chimneys and a classic doorway, is a fine example of a pre-revolutionary dwelling of New Castle.

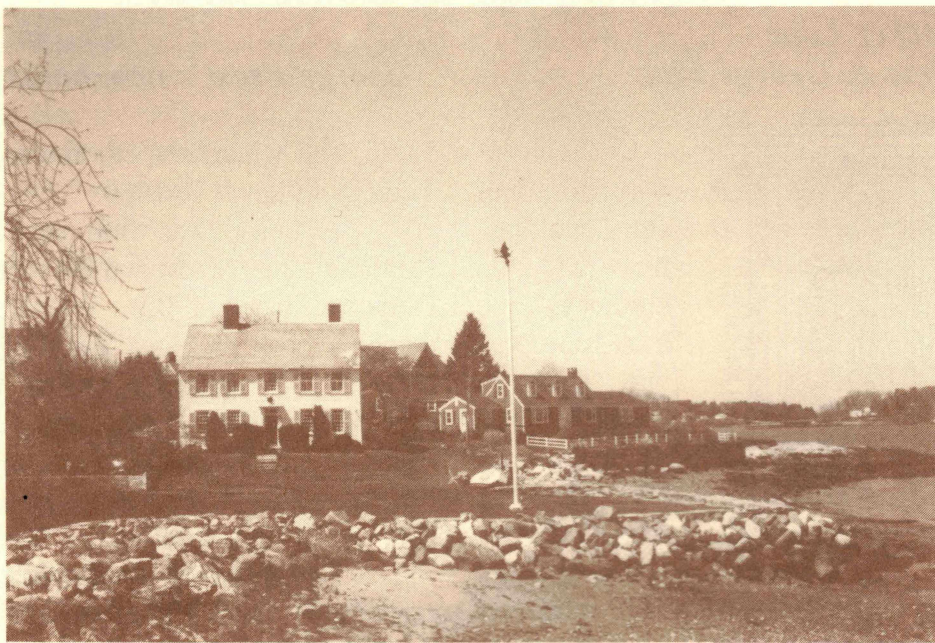
It was built on land originally granted to Robert Mussell which passed to his daughter Abishag, who married Thomas Marshall about 1674. When she died, he married

Sarah, and when he died, she married a Thomas Mitchell in 1680.

A house was first used by the Honorable John Frost and his wife, Mary Pepperrell Frost (1702). Whether it was this one or a previous dwelling is not known. The property passed to their grandson, George Frost and his wife Abigail Frost around 1776 and he housed Revolutionary War soldiers, stationed at the Fort, in this building.

Henry Becker, Fred White's great grandfather, and Walter Becker's great great grandfather, was born in Berlin, Germany in 1794, fought at the Battle of Waterloo, in Belgium, and eventually





landed in Canada. From there, in the dead of winter, he snowshoed to New Castle.

At a local store, lacking a command of the English language, he was befriended by the German speaking Col. Walbach, from Fort Constitution, who also had fought at Waterloo. He stayed at the Fort with Col. Walbach and later married Miss Annie Pray, of Kittery (Berwick). He was one of many men who, over the last 350 years, finding themselves at Fort Point, married a local girl and took up permanent residence.

Henry and Annie's sons, Capt. Henry Becker, and his brother Charles E. Becker purchased this house in 1866. Capt. Henry then moved in from the Isles

Of Shoals, and Fred's mother Octavia, was born and grew up here.

Early in the 20th century, Edmond, the famous artist from New Castle, and his wife Emeline Tarbell lived here for a while, then in 1935, Dr. Rolfe Lium, a surgeon, and his family. George, a retired engineer and architect and his wife Virginia, Pitts, have been resident since 1943.

George shows a small cannonball which he dug out of the side of the house some years ago. It may have been part of the retaliatory bombardment by a British ship which had tried to load a supply of fresh water off the island, only to be rebuffed when a local woman upset all their containers.

The Robert Mussell House

III-B

*24 Salamander Lane
Carolyn Seybolt*

*c mid 1600's
William Vennard, 1776*



This is one of the first houses in New Castle. It is a Cape Cod style house built near the river's edge, of red clapboards, with white trim and black shutters.

In about 1642, Robert Mussell took into his possession all of the land surrounding this house: from Walbach Street, Piscataqua Street, down to Atkinson Street, and the entire enclosed "river's edge". His homestead was

probably at this location.

In 1658, there was a public meeting concerning the *ungranted* land covering four acres in the possession of Robert Mussell, who had been there for "... about 16 years" (1642). He was formally granted this land, and kept possession of this point of land named Salamander Point.

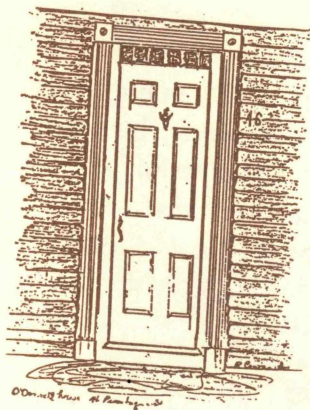
The house was purchased by Carolyn and John Seybolt and they have made extensive modifications and additions to the original structure. The Cape Cod Cottage style on its beautiful location overlooking the Piscataqua is a reminder of historical homes of the past, and their connection to the sea.



Grampy Prohaska's House

*46 Piscataqua Street
Dorothy O'Donnell*

*III-C
c. 1800*



Today it has the classical details of Greek Revival, but this little house with its sturdy post and beam construction was built with simple lines and was probably low to the ground. Post

Civil War prosperity and the Industrial Revolution no doubt account for its "face and foundation lift".

Originally part of the 1728 Meshach Bell parcel of land, it was split off and sold for \$200 in 1806 by Capt. George and Dorothy Vennard and described as "...a certain messuage or parcel of land ...together with the Dwelling House thereon..." When and for whom the small house was built along side of the existing Colonial is not known.

The deeds do tell of the booms and

busts in real estate. After the War of 1812, the market crashed and the property went for \$ 58.31; then tumbled in 1838 to \$ 55.00. In the decade before the Civil War the price soared to \$303.00 and at the height of the War, the value more than doubled.

Charles F. and Sadie (Card) Prohaska became its owners in 1885 and for the next seventy + years, it remained in the Prohaska family. (Charles F. Sr. and his second wife, Elizabeth Britton were the town's beloved Grammy and Grampy Prohaska).

Since 1962, Dorothy O'Donnell who calls herself "a Newcomer" has owned the house.

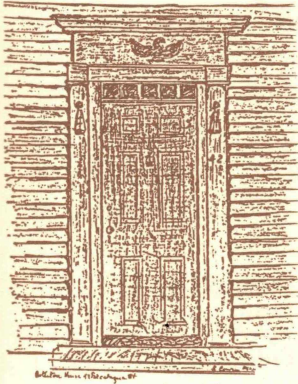


The Abraham Shreefe House

III-D

*42 Piscataqua Street
The Colliton Family*

early 1700's



Although the original date of construction of this house cannot be determined as fact, on November 22, 1728 it was deeded by Abraham Shreefe, Fisherman, to Meshach Bell, Fisherman.

Benjamin and improved by him as his dwelling house..." In that same year Benjamin sold the house to his son Meshach Bell, Jr. All three ... Meshach, Benjamin, and Meshach, Jr ... were among the New Castle revolutionaries who attacked the fort and seized the gunpowder later used at Bunker Hill.

The Bells married into the Vennard family and the Vennard into the White family. This property stayed in their hands for almost two hundred years, going from relative to relative. For nearly three quarters of this century, the property has been proudly owned by the Frank L. Colliton, Sr. family.

The deed read, in part, in describing the house, "...a certain messuage or peice or parcel of land ..." Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary, Second Edition, defines a messuage as "Law. A dwelling house, with the adjacent building and curtilage, and the adjoining lands; a toft." The house and land were sold for 35 pounds sterling.

Meshach Bell's brother Benjamin subsequently purchased the house in 1774, it "... now being in the actual possession of said



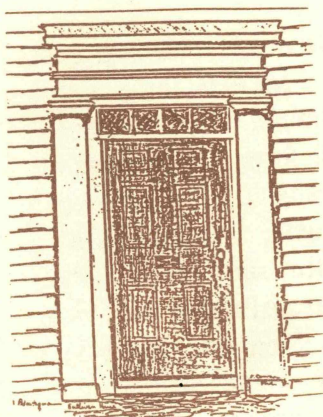
The George Frost House (1st)

III-E

c 1730

*22 Piscataqua Street
The Sullivan Family*

George Frost, - old, 1776



Located at the corner of Piscataqua Street and Becker Lane, this is a stately two and a half story house with central chimney and classic doorway.

It was probably built around 1730. In 1802, it was sold by George Frost and his wife Abigail to Benjamin Trefethen, mariner, for \$ 200. Frost sold as little

land as possible leaving only a few feet on either end and about 25 ft depth at rear.

In 1809 it was sold by Ben Trefethen to John Trefethen for the same price. In 1907 George B. Frost sold it to Chester Becker, and he in turn sold it to Florence Blaisdell.

In 1927 it was passed on to Clyde & Mildred Blaisdell and their son Irving, who then sold it to George and Gladys Calkins. Their son Robert then sold it to Jim and Bernadette Sullivan.

Currently it is in the possession of Gary Sullivan, their son.



The Reed-Tarlton House

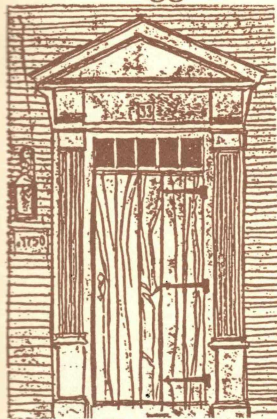
III-F

1718

33 Piscataqua Street

Janet Flagg

John Tarlton, 1775



The land upon which this wonderfully restored saltbox stands was part of the extensive holdings of John Cutt, New Hampshire's first provincial president (1680).

were quartered here during 1775 and 1776 and three years later, John Tarlton was paid 20 pounds sterling for damages and rent.

The Tarlton family held ownership for over a century. Then, like many New Castle houses, it changed hands over and over. At times, it was a one family residence, at times a two-family rental.

Within the last one hundred years occupants have been the Garland, Davidson, and the Joseph & Catherine Harris families; then Warren Alley, and Earl & Norma Glidden. In 1970, Eldred and Joy Straw sold it to a Charles Tobey who restored it to its present beauty of pure line and elegant design. Janet Flagg, the present owner, purchased it in 1981.

Hugh and Margaret Reed bought the land from the Cutt/Phipps family in 1715 and a house is listed as being here by 1718.

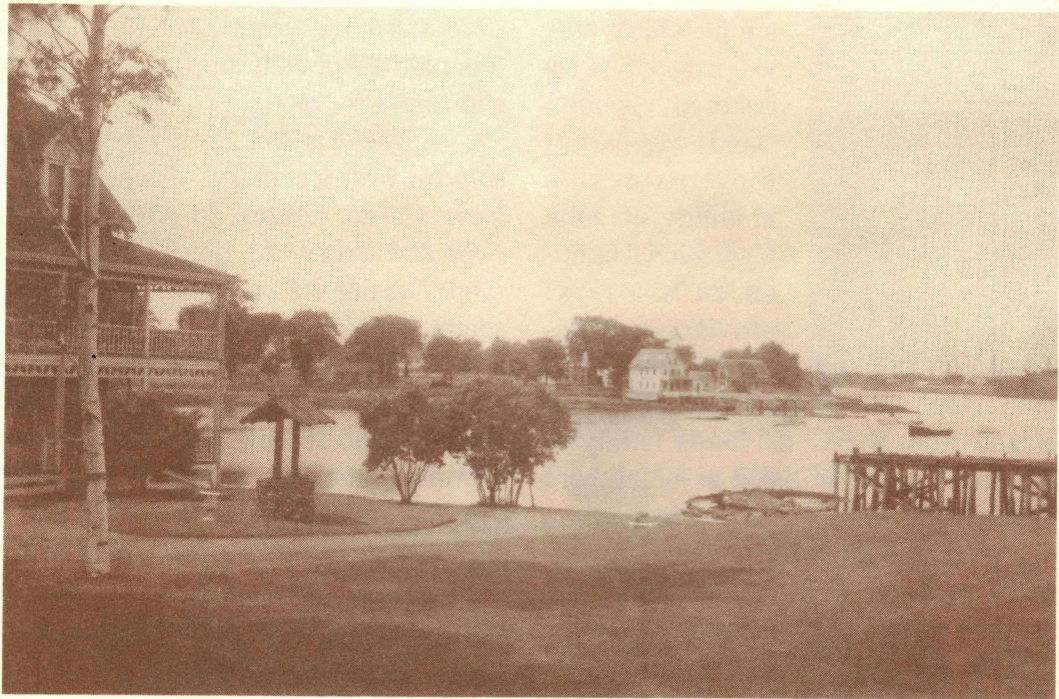
When widow Margaret Reed willed the property in 1760, she did so in true yankee fashion with these words " ... I give and bequeath to my cousin Abigail (White) Tarlton, the south part of my dwelling House including one half of the chimneys with all the land about said house..." The north part (Street- side) she left to William Venard, who deeded it, for 40 pounds sterling to John Tarlton five years later.

The house was commandeered, troops



*Along The River's Edge
and
The Upper Cove*

IV



The shore line beginning from the west end of the Robert Mussell's grant, and extending west to the Piscataqua Cafe, has had varied use over the past three hundred years. Because of the deep water just off shore, it has been used as a place to moor ships and boats servicing the harbor. In the early days, fishermen, mainly from Nova Scotia and other settlements to the north came here for their supplies and materials.

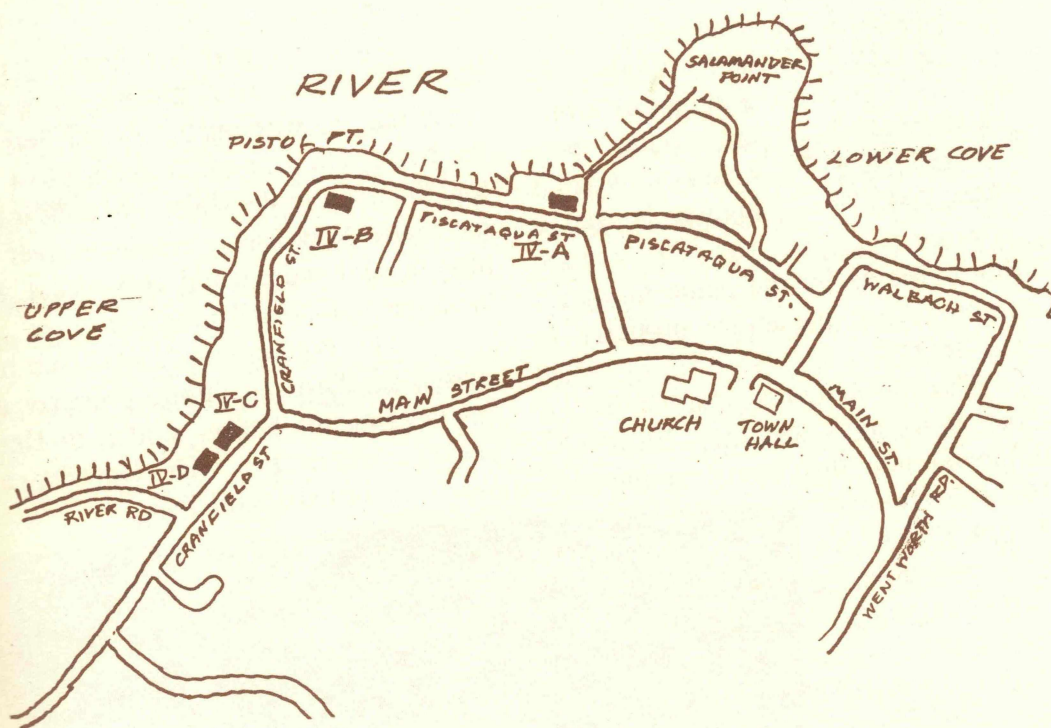
Near the western end of the Yacht Club Pier, there was a ferry service

facilitating travel between Kittery Point and Portsmouth.

Around Pistol Point and to the south and west is Jones's Cove, a name coming from the name of an early settler. As trade in coal, cod fish, and other import/export activities existed here, the cove had other names including The Working Cove and the Business Cove. Still another name is the Upper Cove, distinguishing it from the Lower Cove, or Hart's Cove, lying to the west of the Coast Guard Station.

Along The River's Edge
and
The Upper Cove

IV



IV-A The Nathan White House
IV-B The Nathaniel Fryer House

IV-C The Thomas Phipps House
IV-D The Rev. Sloan House

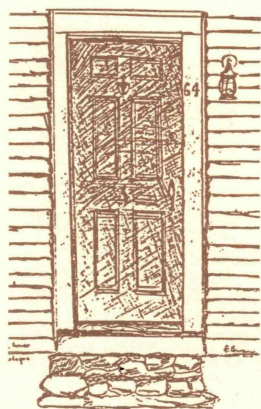
The Nathan White House

IV-A

1690

64 Piscataqua Street

Dorothy & Barbara Becker



This, and the house next to it, the *Olde Roy Prohaska House*, were built in the middle to late 1600's.

One story is that the Pendleton brothers built both houses. What is known is that a cooper from

Scarboro, Maine by the name of James Robinson owned the entire property in the late 1600's.

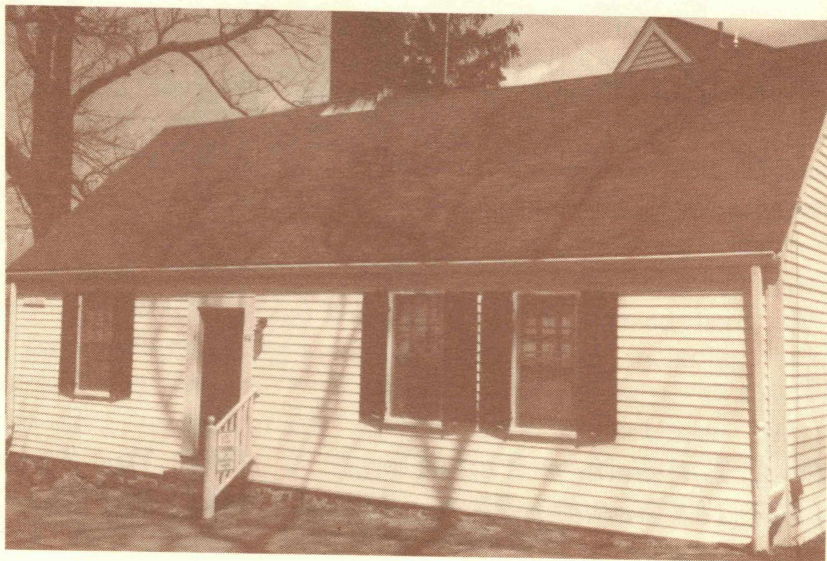
Shortly thereafter, Nathan White married Robinson's daughter, Elizabeth, and moved into this house in the mid 1690's. Eventually, Nathan & Elizabeth's sons each received a house. Son Nathan, Jr. received this one, as son Solomon received the house next door.

In the early 1900's, Captain Drownes family lived here. Daughter Maude was a very large woman and subject to fits of epi-

lepsy. According to Barbara Becker's father, Henry, who grew up in the house across the street, formerly the "Sweetser House", Maude had gone out lobstering in her oil skins, had a seizure and fell overboard to her death.

Henry related how he came upon the body in the river, but it was of such mass that he was unable to get her into the boat. He proceeded to *snag* her and tow the body to the shore. Maude joined the many New Castle residents over the past three hundred and fifty years who have been *claimed by the sea*.

The Portsmouth Yacht Club purchased the Drowne family property and not wanting the house, sold it to Henry Becker, where his wife Dorothy and daughter Barbara, still live.



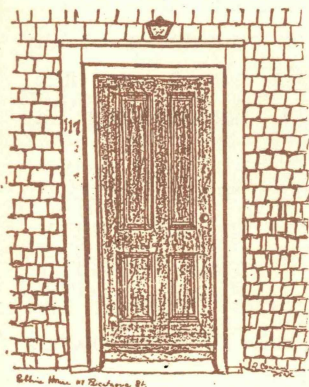
The Nathaniel Fryer House

IV-B

117 Piscataqua Street

1671

Mary & Theodore Robbins



In 1660, an acre of land was granted to Bryan Pendleton, a very influential man. He was one of the Townsmen or Selectman and Master of the Trained Band, a

group who daily patrolled the coast line, from New Castle to the Hampton line.

House construction began but in 1670 James Pendleton, as attorney for his father Bryan, sold to Thomas Follansby "...the dwelling house not yet finished".

In 1671, the house was completed by Follansby then sold to Nathaniel Fryer. Fryer was also an influential man. He was a member of the first recorded Governor's Council and later Chief Justice of the Court. He was a long term resident of Great Island.

In 1676 Fryer sold this parcel to William Haskins, a native

of Ireland, as he had been granted permission to settle on the island. His daughter Rachel married James Chaddock, and legal administration was given to Chaddock. An inventory, made in 1713, mentions an old house and other items valued at a few pounds sterling.

In the 1700's, John Frost, a member of His Majesty's Council and Commander of a British Man-of-War later owned the property. Frost's wife was Mary Pepperell, the sister of Sir William Pepperell.

Frost was considered one of New Hampshire's best and most useful citizens. In the mid 1770's, he was granted a license to run a ferry from the land in



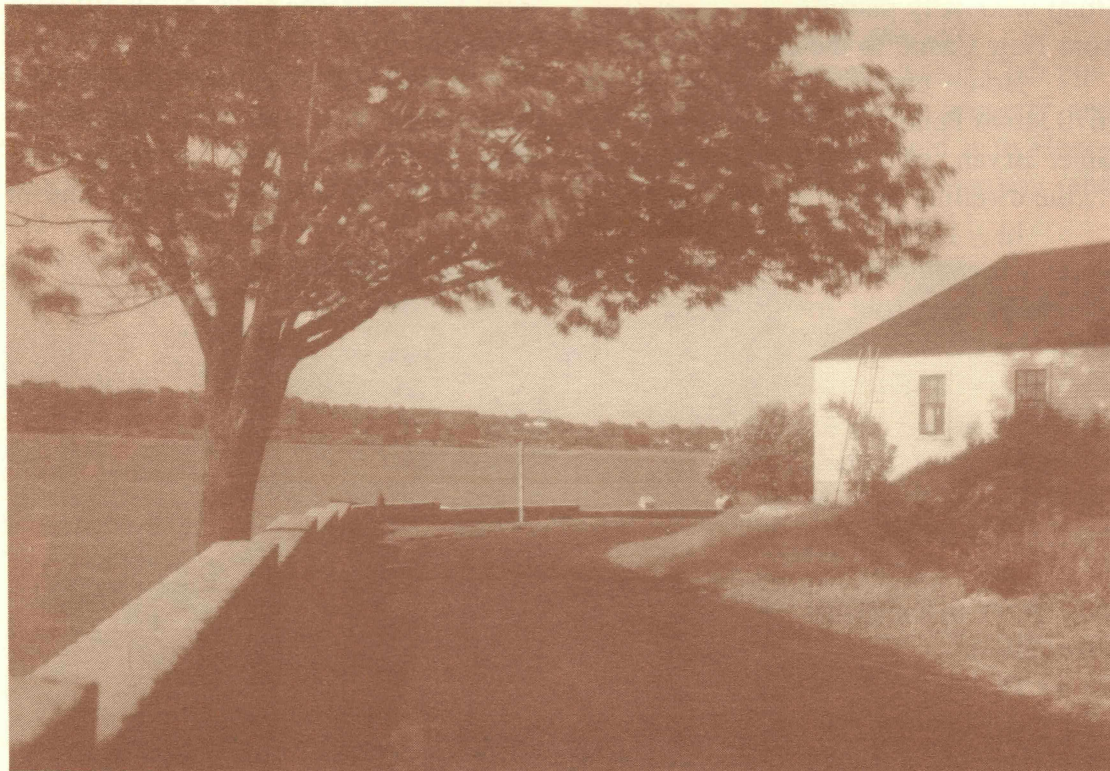
front of his house, called *Haskins' Point*, to Kittery and Portsmouth.

He had two daughters, Abigail Frost and Sarah who married Rev. John Blunt, pastor and fourth clergyman of the New Castle Church. John Blunt was ordained in 1732 and remained beloved pastor of this church until his death in 1748. It is suspected that Sarah Blunt wrote the excellent poetry, inscribed on monuments of New Castle graves in honor of her sister Abigail Frost and to honor Sarah's husband, Rev. John Blunt.

In 1790, James Neal purchased the property with the present house.

Directly opposite the house on the edge of the bank near the shore, was a building once the store of James Neal. Beneath the store was an open space for the storage of small boats and dories. The store was on the boundaries of the road laid out in 1805, which was later made wider in 1824, necessitating the removal of the building.

There have been many owners of this house in the 19th and 20th century, among them was Portsmouth Industrialist, Beer Baron, Railway Magnet, and Rockingham and Wentworth Hotel owner Frank Jones in 1902.



The Thomas Phipps House

IV-C

&

The Rev. Sloan House

IV-D

The land on which the Thomas Phipps House and the adjacent Rev. Sloan House sits, was part of a grant in 1660 to John Webster, who in turn sold it to John Cutt. It then passed on to his descendants and finally from Thomas Phipps to an Edward Martin.

In the few years following 1750,

Henry Tredick had acquired all the land from the corner of Main Street and Cranfield Street including Lydia A. Amazeen's house, now a boat yard, to the corner of Portsmouth Avenue and River Road. Being a merchant and fisherman, he had two stores and several buildings on this property.

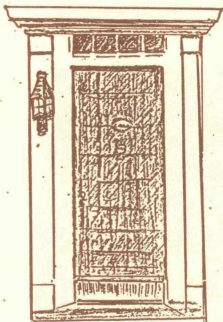
The Thomas Phipps House

IV-C

68 Cranfield Street

mid 1700's

Virginia and Barton Carr



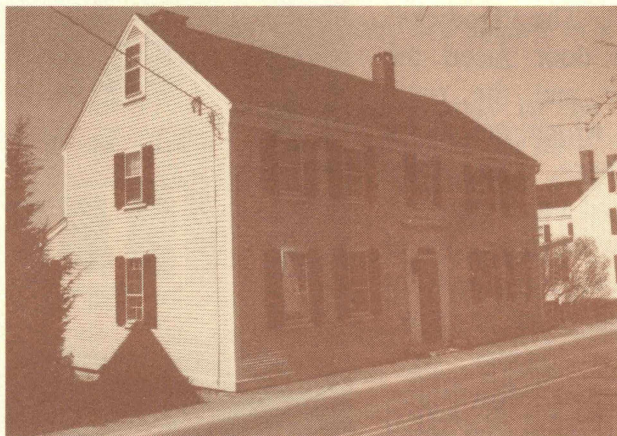
This house was built during the mid 1700's, when owned by Henry Tredick, Sr. The property, with dwelling, was then transferred to his son, Henry Jr., a merchant of

Portsmouth. Fisherman Nathan White purchased it in 1810 and Nathaniel Lear in 1838.

Two Lear sisters lived here, aunts of George Washington's Secretary Tobias Lear, of Portsmouth. One of the sisters was a

widow of an Amazeen.

In all there have been about twenty owners of this house, and during the early 1900s it was rented to numerous occupants by absentee owners.

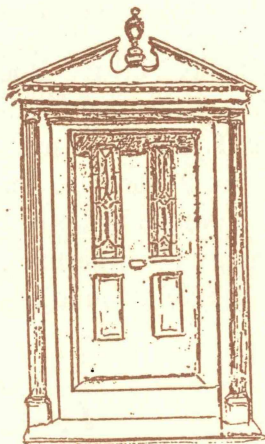


The Rev. Sloan House

IV-D

c 1756

74 Cranfield Street
Helen St. John



the present house. It also served the seamen who brought in coal to the coal wharves located on the shore farther downriver, and other crews from the Marvin's import business slightly upriver from this location.

The Tredicks' front door faced the water and the town path which ran along the shore. The sailors entered the front door and went into either of what are now the front rooms, to eat or drink.

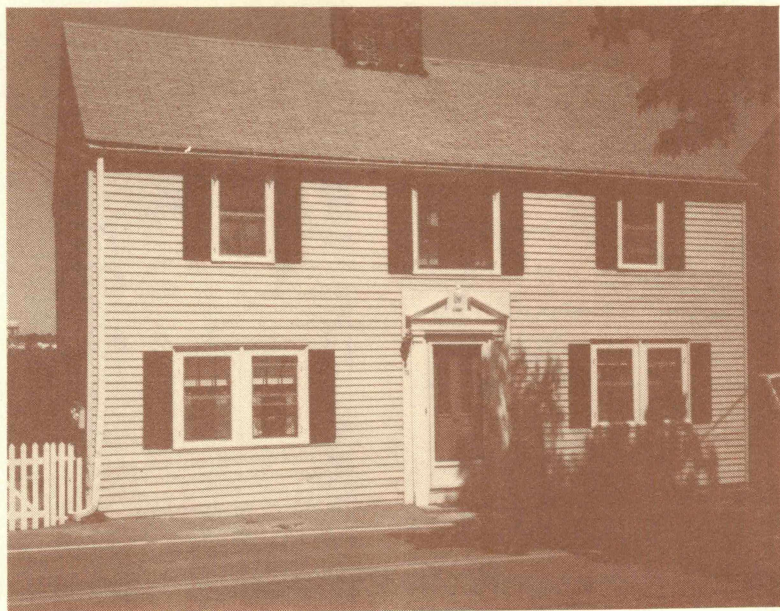
Upstairs over the two downstairs rooms were four small

This house was built around 1756, with the current fire places being original. It was an inn at one time, run by Mr. Henry Tredick. It served the cod fishermen who had a base of operations near

bedrooms. The back ones could be entered only through the little front rooms.

What is now the owner's front door was a back door from which paths led to various places on the island. The main path became what is today Cranfield Street.

In the first half of the 1800's, this house was owned by the Lear family, who also owned *The Thomas Phipps House* next-door. It was sold to Mary Robinson in 1873, she being the daughter of Henry Becker, Sr. In 1930, Rev. Sloan purchased it from her heirs.



The Cape Muskito Hall & Clark's Neck

V

The Cape consists of all the land to the west, from the low point of River Road, south through the Marvin Cemetery Lot, across Portsmouth Avenue and on to the mill pond. Originally known as Muskito Hall, it was in 1637 that this, the first of numerous land transactions to individuals, was granted to Francis and Thomasine Mathews. A few years later, they were granted additional land now known as Adams Point in Oyster River (now Durham), and subsequently moved there.

Their daughter Elizabeth married William Drew of the Isles of Shoals and Oyster River. Some eleven generations later their descendant, William Drew and his wife Lynda, own land which was part of that original grant .

In 1650 Muskito Hall was owned by Richard Tucker. George Walton purchased it in 1653 and in 1670, fisherman John Clark from the Isles of Shoals bought it for "one hundred and fiftie pounds in good marchantable wel cured drie cod ffish".

The western side of The Cape was commonly called *the Fish Pasture*. It was an area owned by Capt. Thomas Oliver, for the drying and salting of fish. Fishermen brought their catch here to clean, split, salt and hang them to dry in the sun on racks. This area was probably

used by previous owners, from the early 1600's, for the same purpose.

On the southerly side of The Cape are the remains of an old tidal grist mill. It was built by Shadrach Walton, later owned by Theodore Atkinson, and he sold it to Thomas Bell in 1744. Later a member of the Vennard family owned and ran it.

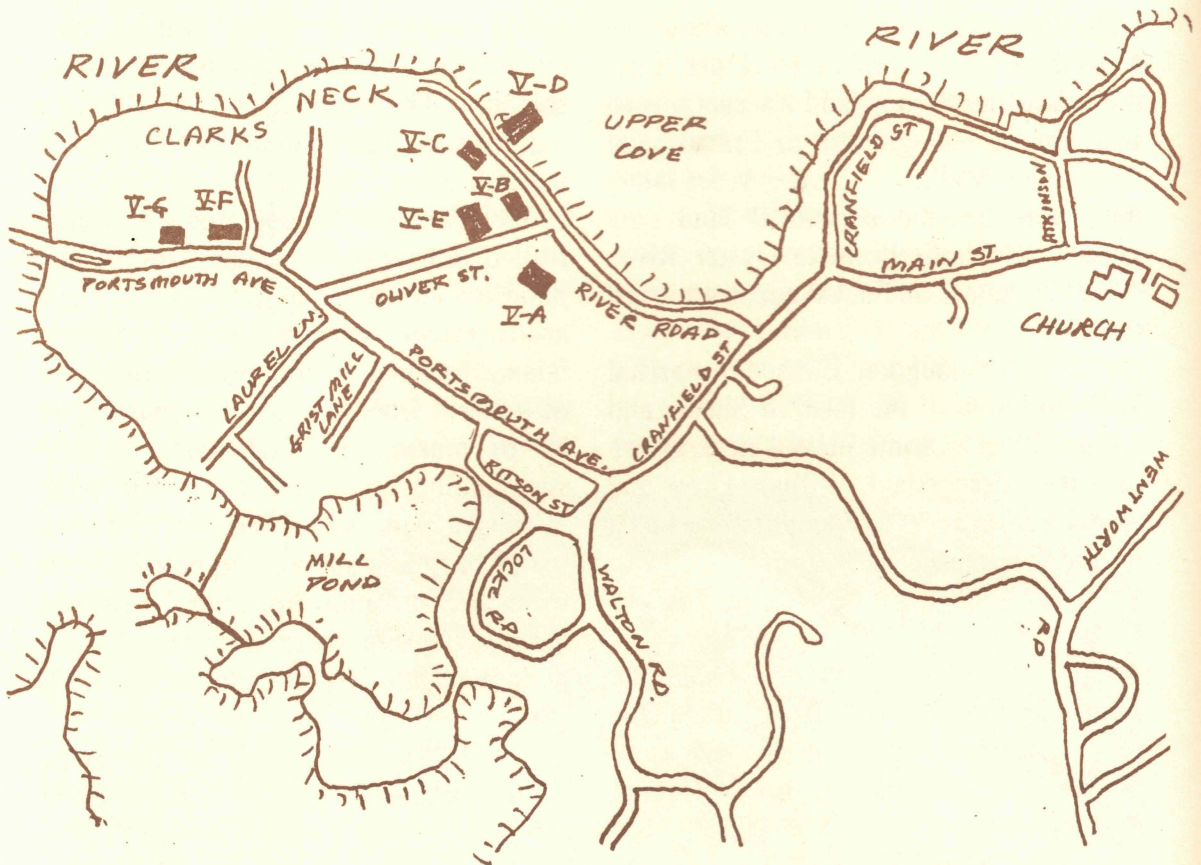
The mill was operated with a controlled movement of water, from a mill pond, replenished with tide water. There are two dams, each reaching out to Mill Island, forming the mill pond, a reservoir of water. One dam is a live dam made up of mussels and salt water growth surrounding rocks and fill. The other dam is mostly rocks and fill. The remains of timber supports to hold back the water still protrude from the top of each dam. When the dams were first built is unknown, but they are shown in a 1774 map.

The many islands to the south form an anchorage called *the pool*. Ships arriving in the Portsmouth area from foreign ports were quarantined here prior to their crews being authorized to leave the ship and go into Portsmouth. The islands were dotted with many dwellings where *spirits* and other forms of entertainment were provided for the crews as they waited to leave the ship.

The New Castle Historical Group

Most of the islands were at one time owned by the Marvin Family. Pest Island, now a part of Portsmouth, and currently owned by Lois Page's daughter, Laurie Clark, was used as a holding point for the diseased and later used to provide

shelter to society's outcasts and misfits. Snuffbox Island is owned by Ralph Brown, noted historian and naturalist of the back channel. Long rock and Mill Island are owned by New Castle resident, Anthony Casso, of Lock Road.



V-A The Oliver - Marvin House
 V-B The Alexander White House
 V-C The Amazeen House

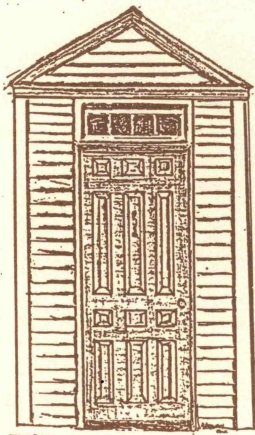
V-D The Piscataqua Cafe
 V-E The Capt. John White House
 V-F The Tarbell House

V-G The Neal House

The Oliver - Marvin House

V-A
1800

Corner: Oliver Street & River Road
The Marvin Family & Elaine Nollet



This house reflects the salt-water origins of many New Castle homes. It is located at the corner of River Road and Oliver Street and overlooks the Upper Cove facing Kittery Point on the opposite shore. Built around 1800, it is *Federal* style with a hip roof. The interior features 8 fireplaces, indian shutters, some original moldings, and small paned glass windows.

In 1801 Hannah Oliver (b. circa 1755), widow of New Castle, left to her daughter, Deborah (Oliver) Marvin, (b. 1776) and to her son, Capt. Thomas Ellison Oliver (b. 1779), each one-half of her property, including fences, profits, and dwelling. Perhaps Hannah was the wife of the Mr. Oliver listed, along with a Mr. Ellison, as having been one of a group of men who participated in the raid on Fort William & Mary in Dec. 1774.

The original property extended for acres around and beyond the house, and was an ideal setting for the shipowner who traded up and down the Atlantic Coast. Among Captain Oliver's fleet of

ships were the *Olive Branch*, fifty one tons built in 1820 and the *Lady Jackson*, forty nine tons built in 1829. The property included all the land back to the mill pond, encompassing what is now Laurel and Grist Mill Lanes. It was here, in the late 1800's and early 1900's, where, in the apple orchard opposite "Long Rock", there was a dwelling, now a summer home, used by his descendants for entertaining *guests*, card games, and the consumption and trading of *spirits*.

Captain Oliver was educated in the shipping trade by Captain John Blunt of Blunt's Island (behind the Wentworth Hotel). The first William Marvin was brought to New Castle from the Isle of Guernsey by Captain Oliver. William Marvin married Captain Oliver's widowed sister, Deborah. They had four children including William Marvin II (b. 1810). He then married Marianne Martin and had Thomas Ellison Oliver Marvin (b. 1837).

When Captain Oliver died in 1868, he left the house to his grandnephew William Marvin III and left Marvin's Island, now known as Shapleigh Island, to his grandnephew Thomas Ellison Oliver Marvin. These two brothers, together with James P. Bartlett, created the firm "Marvin Brothers & Bartlett," purveyors of the famous cod liver oil by



the same name. This business was conducted for many years on Bow Street in Portsmouth while the fishing trade continued to be conducted along the Piscataqua River between Captain Oliver's house in New Castle and Marvin's Island.

William Marvin III was married twice. With Katie Moses he had Martha Ella, and with Eliza Salter Anderson he had Oliver Bell (b.1876), Ruth Alice and William Edward (b.1872). When Oliver Bell Marvin married Cora Idella Wheeler in 1899, a Victorian addition was built on the southern side of the house as a wedding present from his father. Oliver and Cora had two children, Oliver Wheeler Marvin (b.1900) and Philip Edward Marvin (b.1902). Their heirs sold that side of the house to Elaine Nollet in 1992.

William Marvin III left the main part of the house to his other son, the Honorable William Edward Marvin I.

Productive in career and marriage he had four daughters and three sons with his wife, Susan Roby Bent. His youngest son Edward Sheafe Marvin (b.1907) married Eleanor Jordon and had three children: William Edward II (b.1937), Eleanor Newall (b.1939) and Deborah Terhune (b.1941). William Edward Marvin II purchased the main house from the estate of Susan Roby Bent Marvin. He left the house to his third wife Carolyn Bryant, who presently resides there and to his children by his first marriage to Helen Brett, Edward Gerald and Julie Elizabeth Marvin. Edward Gerald Marvin has three sons: Nathan Elliott Marvin, William Edward Marvin IV, and Ryan Leo Marvin. The Marvin name lives on.

The family cemetery near the Maude Trefethen School, contains the many generations of the Oliver/Marvin Family, and is a history in itself..... in stone.

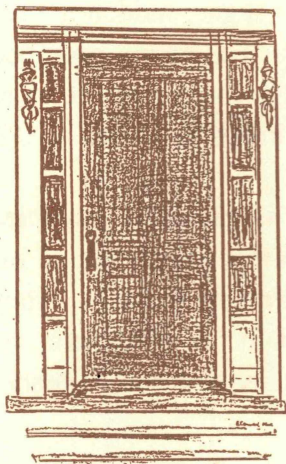
The Alexander White House

V-B

7 Cape Road

mid 1700's

The Chase Family



At the corner of Cape Road and Oliver Street stands an 18th century story and a half house known as the Alexander White property. It stands today as it has for years on its one tenth of an acre of land facing the Piscataqua River and picturesque Kittery Point, Maine.

Alexander White was a fisherman who had been to sea in his younger years and was still fishing at age 94, according to an article by Haydon Jones for a Boston newspaper. However, fishing was not his only pursuit. He was an E-flat bugle player. A photograph of him taken in 1854 shows him with his bugle. He was the leader of a band called *The New Castle Brass*.

He was also known as the artist of New Castle and was still dabbling in art at age 94. His earlier works are very creditable. They are often copies but good. Most are sea pictures. One of his paintings shows a vessel heading in, sails

set before the breeze, on a 22" X 30" canvas. It has quality and today looks futuristic, reminding us of Gauguin in his later paintings.

Alexander was also an Advent minister and preached in the Advent Chapel on Vennards Court.

When Charles Stuart Chase purchased the property from Alexander's sister in 1935, his paint box, some dried paints and an oil painting of the house were found. Most of the thole pins holding the rafters together were missing and legend has it that he sold them for artist materials.

The house had not been lived in for fifteen years at the time of Charles's purchase. Charles Chase had married Ruth Sloan, the daughter of the Rev. Sloan, the Congregational minister in New Castle in the 1930's. He owned and lived in Helen St. John's house, 25 Cranfield Street. Alexander White's daughter Grace White Durkee also lived here.

Alexander's sister, Miss White, came several times each summer to sit and watch the river traffic for an hour or two or use it as headquarters while she had tea and called upon her friends be-

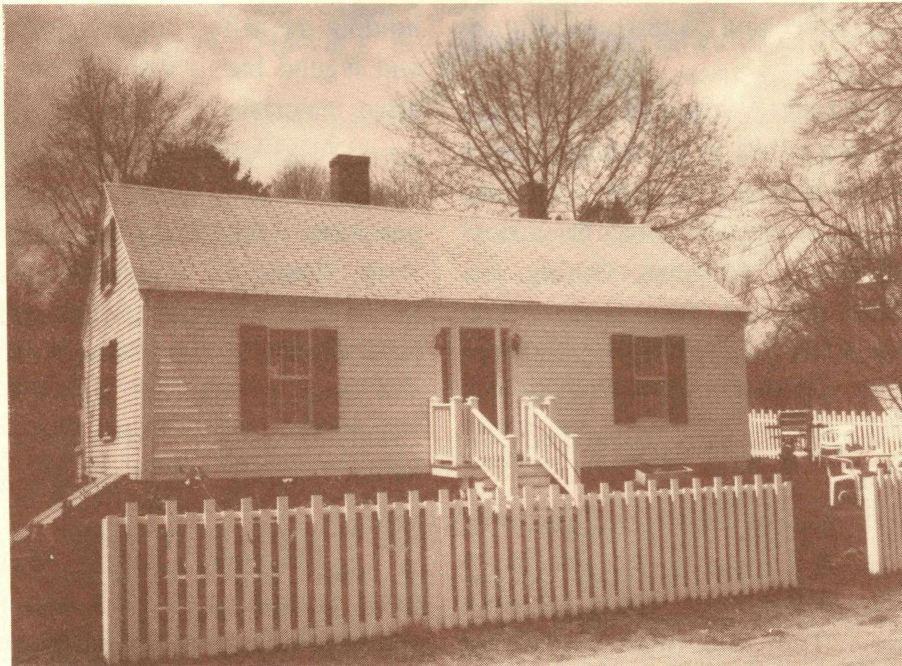
fore returning to her home in Massachusetts.

The house was purchased for \$ 600 from this sister, Miss White. An additional \$ 25 was asked for the contents. These included a trundle bed in the living room, several five-slat thumb-back chairs in the kitchen and a lovely ribbon-legged mahogany drop-leaf table. The oddest acquisition was the two-hole outhouse, the holes trimmed in brass rings.

Taxes on the property were eight dollars and change, a far cry from today's burden.

Also found in the crawl space between the smaller upstairs bedroom and the room over the kitchen were demijohns of molasses and water, as well as crocks of flour and sugar, hidden in case of Indian attacks. The space provided sitting and sleeping room for no more than three. The molasses tested 100% pure!

The house is presently occupied by Ruth Sloan Chase's grandson and his wife, Robert and Pamela Stevens. They continue to maintain its simplistic yet rugged beauty and giving it lots of tender loving care.



The Amazeen House

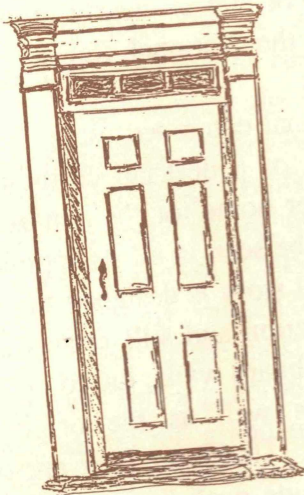
31-33 Cape Road

The Toomey Family & The Amazeen Family

V-C

early 1700's

Robert White, 1776



Three generations of Clarks lived here and the house was built by them somewhere in the early 1700's. The area from the school to the causeway was called *Clark's Neck* after this family.

The estate was sold to Robert White, mariner, in 1750 and owned by

him during the Revolutionary War. This is one of the houses still standing in which Revolutionary War soldiers were billeted. After the war the government paid White 76 pounds sterling for damages to the house caused by the soldiers.

The next known owner was Thomas E. Oliver. In 1864 Oliver sold the house to two New Castle brothers, Alexander and Luther Amazeen and they converted it to a two family dwelling.

The present owners of 31 Cape Road are the children of Bettie & Richard Toomey. The children of the late Elsie and Gerard Amazeen are the present owners of 33 Cape Road. All are Amazeen descendants.



The Piscataqua Cafe

V-D
1898

32 Cape Road

The Amazeen Family

Constructed by Luther Amazeen in 1898, the Piscataqua Cafe sits on the beach so that, like so many houses in New Castle, as you leave the front porch, you step directly onto the street. He built it to be conveniently placed on the cove to serve sailors, both commercial and recreational, and other travelers along the Piscataqua River.

Luther was one of those typical New Englanders who seemed to be able to do anything - and did. He was both a lobster fisherman and farmer, and as a result, lobsters were very ordinary fare in the Amazeen home.

The Cafe attests to the fact that Luther was a carpenter of extraordinary talent. It is now almost a century old, a rare survival of another age. To walk inside is to step back several decades. It is an unusual example of local building because it was a truly local response to late 19th-century "summer people." In fact, the Piscataqua Cafe is undoubtedly the town's best example of turn-of-the-century commercial building to survive almost totally intact. Even with the loss of its wharf and side deck, it still has a higher degree of original building materials than do most historic buildings and is a truly remarkable remnant of the past.

It is a landmark of the vernacular architecture of its era and is clearly eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

Its original combined use as both a cafe for boat or pedestrian customers and as a summer home for the Amazeen family can still be seen in all its appointments. The first story is designed for its commercial function and still retains all its fine matched-board walls, the counter, and staircase as well as the original restaurant tables. Under the later enclosure of the far side deck is a trap door where lobsters and other seafood could come right off the family's boat. Apparently, the only missing item is the old cook stove.

Even more interesting, in some ways, is the full evidence of continued family occupation of the second story. In its architecture and furnishing this is very clear. As designed, the second floor is a series of bedrooms with an original late-19th century watercloset that, undoubtedly, once emptied into the river. The bedrooms are of special interest because so much of the original Victorian "cottage furniture" bedroom suites are still there. The only architectural change to this story is the introduction of safe

electrical service to modern codes and the preparations to convert one small room into a modern bathroom.

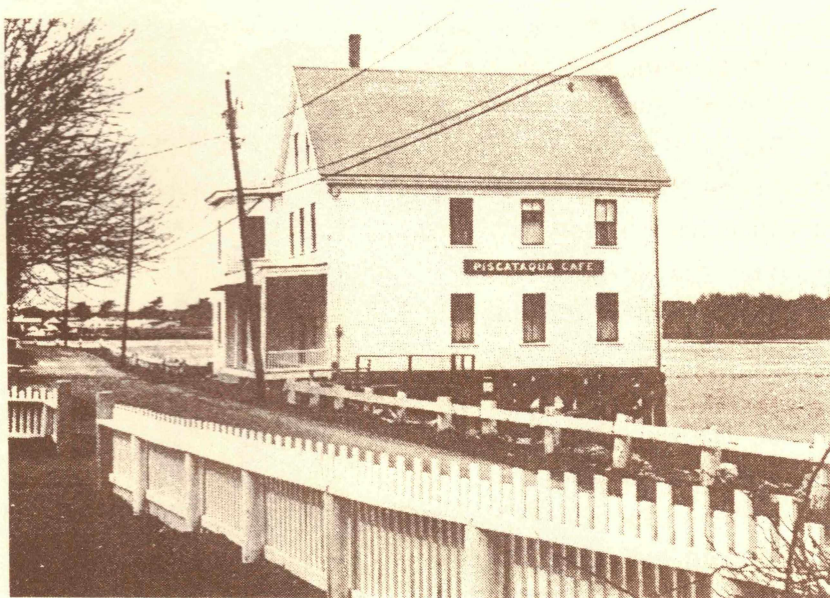
To facilitate access to those who arrived by water, a long wharf extended from the back out to a floating dock which adjusted for the rise and fall of the tide. Unfortunately, the wharf seemed to be a magnet for runaway yachts. Twice it was hit by large yachts that broke from their moorings during hurricanes. The last one in the early 1950's destroyed it, but, thankfully, missed the building itself.

One of the most scenic places on the river was a generous size upper deck that sat on the grand old wharf, outside the second story of the Cafe. Sitting in a lounge chair on that upper deck, there was a marvelous panoramic view of New

Castle, Gerrish Island, Kittery Point, the Naval Shipyard, and Portsmouth.

Every summer since Luther built it, family members and guests have stayed at "The Wharf" as it is affectionately called. Grandson Paul's mother's father and mother, Burleigh and Jessie Jones, spent their summers there for many years in the 1940's and 50's. It has been a hospitable, social center for Luther's guests, family and descendants, and has continued in that tradition for almost 100 years.

Luther, however, did not live long enough to enjoy the fruits of his labor, as he drowned while lobstering off Odiornes Point in 1902. His son Luther M. then carried on the responsibilities of maintaining this unique family tradition.



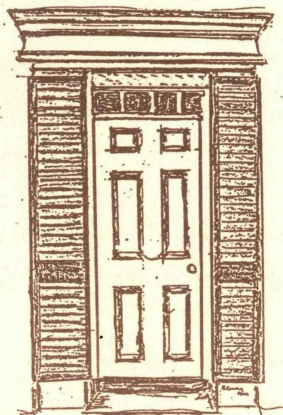
Capt. John E. White

V-E

1854

57 Oliver Street

John H. DeCourcy



Captain John E. White, fisherman, purchased this land in about 1819. He then built a house, now 47 Oliver Street, next door to this house in 1820. After a number of prosperous years,

he built this house in 1854.

John DeCourcy bought this house in 1946 from Miss Annie Amazeen. He added the ell at the back providing a large modern kitchen and a back stairway leading to a new bedroom and half bath. The present garage was originally a small barn which had to be moved when the ell was built. It faced east and was turned to face the road.

Outside, DeCourcy built the long picket fence. The granite posts came from Concord and

Dover buildings which were being torn down at the time. The load of undressed posts (on the inside of the fence) were dumped across Oliver Street and several were broken. Gerard Amazeen took the broken ones and used them for anchors for moorings and stone walls.

The large stand of lilacs at the east end of the property was developed from seedlings from the *Wentworth-Coolidge Mansion* in Portsmouth, where the first lilacs in New Hampshire had been brought from France. The hawthorn tree in the front yard was planted in 1976 in honor of the May 15th wedding of John DeCourcy's daughter Kathy.



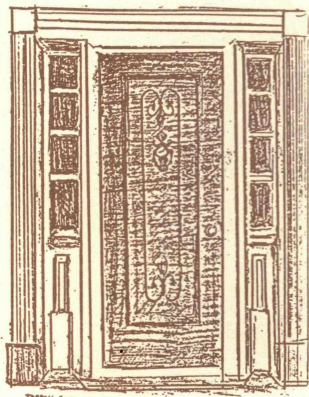
The Tarbell House

V-F

146-152 Portsmouth Ave

1845

The Tarbell Family



The Tarbell Family complex sits near the highest point of land on the northwestern side of The Cape, with a wide outlook over the Piscataqua River.

The renowned artist, Edmund C. Tarbell, (1862-1938) bought this estate in 1905, from William T. Meloon. It had been owned by George Vennard and later John P. Cooper. Mr. Tarbell then hired a Boston architect to draw up plans and build a gable extension on each end of the house.

The middle section is the original house (*Greek Revival*) built about 1845. There was a clay tennis court and a windmill on the property. Employees on the estate included a Japanese butler *Kote*, and a stableman and grounds keeper, Morris Pridham.

The house on the right was originally the carriage house, but in the 1940's was converted to a house where Tarbell's daughter-in-law, Margery Tarbell Staley now lives.

The artist's studio, altered in the 1960's, on the river bank overlooks the

Piscataqua River, and originally had a large northern light window. It is now owned by his grandson, Daniel Tarbell.

The artist had three daughters and a son who were often models for his American Impressionist paintings. In addition to his major work of paintings of his family, he is also well known for portraits of famous society and political figures: President Wilson, General Pershing, industrialist and philanthropist Andrew Carnegie, and Henry Clay Frick.

He taught, and became the Head of the Boston Museum School of Art, and The Corcoran Gallery of Art, in Washington, D.C.

One of his paintings, perhaps his most famous, "*In the Garden*", sold recently for 5 million dollars.

A local resident was used as the model in the painting titled, "*On Bos'n's Hill*", (1901), which was on display in The White House, Washington, D.C. during the Carter, Reagan, and Bush Administrations.

His youngest daughter, Mary Tarbell Schaffer lived in the house until her death in 1991 at the age of 94. She was a familiar figure around town driving her car and walking her Pekingese dog, *Ching*.

The house is now divided into three apartments and owned by the Tarbell Family.

The Tarbell House

V-F



The Neal House

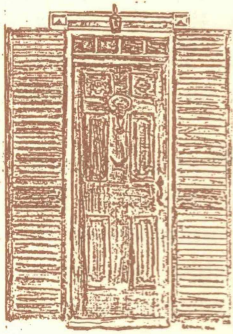
V-G



The Neal House

V-G
1824

158 Portsmouth Avenue
Bettie & Richard Toomey



Upon entering New Castle Island from the causeway we climb what was known as Rand's Hill named after the Rand family who built this house on the property about 1824.

In 1837, two New Castle brothers, William and Robert Neal, purchased it from Reed N. Rand for their widowed mother, Abigail Neal, whose husband was lost at sea.

In 1852, their mother no longer living, the brothers enlarged the house making it a duplex, with a brother living in each side of the house. With its Federal style architecture, it has three chimneys, eight fireplaces and a whaleback stairway.

Robert Neal was married to Eliza Jane Ama-zeen and they had four children, all of whom died in infancy with "throat distemper." Eliza Jane died the same day as her last child. Robert's second wife was Martha Lear and they had no children.

William Neal was married to Sarah Vennard and they had two boys who died in infancy and a

daughter, Annie. Sarah lived to be 102, and died in 1923. Annie lived almost her entire life in this house with no electricity or plumbing and died at the age of 90 in 1954.

It is said that in the 1920's an agent of automobile magnet Henry Ford approached Annie asking her to sell her house with the intention of moving it to Greenfield Village Museum in Michigan. Annie's reply was, "Where would I live..?"

The trumpet vine in front of the house is said to have come from England in the early 1800's.

Today, this property is owned by Dick and Bettie Neal Toomey, a fifth generation Neal to live in the house.



Looking West

New Castle was and has been a *gateway to the west*. Most of the settlers of Portsmouth, Dover, Exeter, and points west, first touched the shores of New Castle.

First, second, and third generations of these families settled further inland in the towns of Rochester, Farmington, New Durham, Brookfield, Middleton, Milton, Wolfeboro and around the eastern side of Lake Winnepesaukee and eastern Maine.

Still later generations moved on to the northeastern part of Vermont.

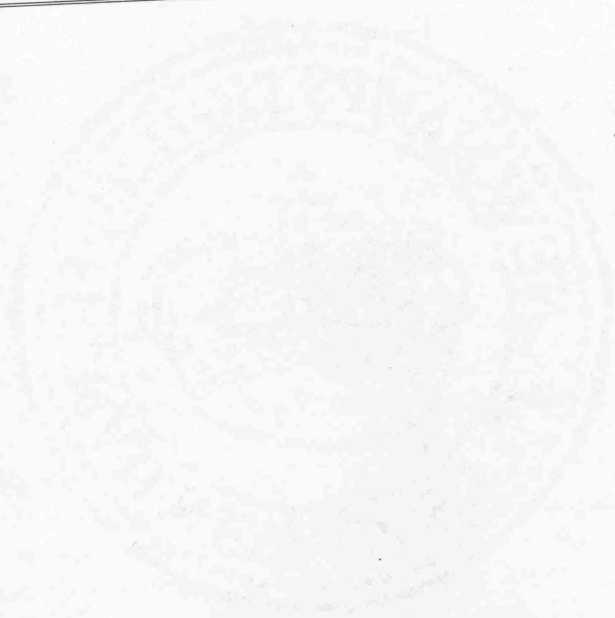
In the early 1800's, later generations migrated out through northern New York state, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin and Minnesota. They became part of what is known as *The Great Migration*.

As we look west from some parts of New Castle today, it is very much like our ancestors viewed it: uninhabited islands, with trees and bushes, sitting in the back-waters of the Piscataqua River.

Those who have been affected by the character of New Castle view life in a unique perspective.







Surname Index

- Albee 20
Alley
 Warren 39
Amazeen 29, 45, 48, 53, 54
 Alexander 53
 Annie, Miss 56
 Eliza Jane A. Neal 59
 Gerard 56
 Gerard & Elsie 53
 Henry 24
 Luther 53, 54
 Lydia A. 45
Anderson
 Eliza Salter Marvin 50
Atkinson 3
 Theodore 24, 30, 47
 Theodore, Jr. 27
 Theodore, Sr. 27
Ball
 John 12
 Joseph B. 12
Barrett 20
Bartlett
 James P. 49
Beavers
 Arthur 15
Becker 14, 34
 Barbara 42
 Charles E. 14, 34
 Charles H. 14
 Chester 38
 Dorothy 42
 Forrest 14
 Forrest & Elizabeth 30
 Henry 33, 42
 Henry, Capt. 34
 Octavia 34
 Peter 14
 Walter 14, 33
Bell 24, 27
 Andrew W. 12
 Benjamin 37
 Meshach 36, 37
 Meshach, Jr. 37
 Thomas 21, 24, 27, 47
Bent
 Susan Roby Marvin 50
Blaisdell
 Clyde & Mildred 38
 Florence 38
 Irving 38
Blunt
 John, Capt. 49
 John, Rev. 44
 Sarah Frost B. 44
Brett
 Helen Marvin 50
Brewster
 Charles W. 4
Brillhart
 David & Joan 32
Britton
 Elizabeth Prohaska 36
Brown
 Ralph 48
Calkins
 George & Gladys 30, 38
 Robert 38
Callahan
 Kevin & Deborah 16
Card 36
 Sadie Prohaska 36
Carr
 Barton & Virginia 45
 James C. 25
Caswell
 Kenneth & Winnie 30

- Chaddock
 James 43
Chase 51
 Charles Stuart 51
 Ruth Sloan 51
Clark 53
 Laurie Page 48
Colliton 37
 Frank L. 37
Conrad
 Ruth 16
Cooper 24
 John P. 57
Cox
 Russell & Susanna 22, 23
Curtis . 24
Cutt
 John 39, 45
Davidson 39
DeCourcy
 John 56
 Kathy 56
Drew
 Lynda 47
 William 47
Drownes
 Capt. 42
 Maude 42
Durkee
 Grace White 51
Eams
 Lula 18
Ellison
 Mr. 49
Emery
 Jonathan 30
 Rufus 27
Feder
 Josephine & Ralph 25
Ferris
 Aaron 15
Flagg
 Janet 39
Follansby
 Thomas 9, 15, 43
Foss
 Henry 15
Foye
 Thomas F. 12
Frost 9, 29
 Abigail 44
 Abigail & George 33
 George 24, 32, 33, 38
 George & Abigail 38
 George B. 38
 John 43
 John, Hon. 33
 Mary Pepperrell 33
 Sarah Frost Blunt 44
 Theodore 16
Fryer
 Nathaniel 43
Garland 39
Gil
 Peter & Karin 15, 16
Glidden
 Earl & Norma 39
Green
 Edmond 12
Grover
 Jeannette 25
Harling
 Simon & Katherine 27
Harrigan
 John & Janet 19
Harris
 Joseph & Catherine 39
Hart 29
 Virginia 28

Haskins

Rachel 43
William 43

Haywood 23

Geraldine 23
Thomas 21, 22

Heronemus 24

William, Mrs. 24

Horner

Virginia 28

Humphreys

George 16

Jackson

Richard 2

Jaffrey 3

Jones

Burleigh & Jessie 55
Frank 44
Haydon 51
William 28

Jordan

Robert, Rev. 10

Jordon

Eleanor Marvin 50

Kean

Sarah Green 12

King

Frank 17
Linn 17
Paul 16

Knowles 24

Laighton 24

Lear

Martha Lear Neal 59
Nathaniel 45
Sisters 45
Tobias 45

Lewis

Michael 14

Lium

Rolfe, Dr. 34

Llewellyn 24

Stanley, Mrs. 24

MacDonald

John & Pauline 18
Roderick & Susan 18
Roderick M. 18
Susan O. E. 18

Marshall

Abishag Mussell 33
Thomas 33

Martin 24

Edward 45
Marianne Marvin 49

Marvin 46, 48, 49

Carolyn Bryant 50
Cora Idella Wheeler 50
Deborah Oliver 49
Deborah Terhune 50
Edward Gerald 50
Edward Sheafe 50
Eleanor Jordon 50
Eleanor Newall 50
Eliza Salter Anderson 50
Helen Brett 50
Julie Elizabeth 50
Katie Moses 50
Marianne Martin 49
Martha Ella 50
Nathan Elliott 50
Oliver Bell 50
Oliver Wheeler 50
Philip Edward 50
Ruth Alice 50
Ryan Leo 50
Susan Roby Bent 50
Thomas E. O. 49
William 49
William Edward, I 50
William Edward, II 50
William Edward, IV 50
William, II 49

Marvin (continued)

William, III 49, 50

Wm. Edward, I 50

Mason

John, Capt. 31

Robert 27

Mathews

Elizabeth Drew 47

Francis & Thomasine 47

Maxam

Kenneth 28

Meloon 25

Everett Scott 25, 29

Ivan 21, 24, 29

James 24

James Madison 29

William T. 57

Miller

Jack 17

Mitchell

Sarah & Thomas 33

Moody

Samuel, Rev. 10

Morse

Joseph 21, 24, 25

Obediah 24

Morton

Daniel 24

Moses

Katie Marvin 50

Muckleberry

Enoch 17

Mussell

Abishag 33

Audrey 32

Robert 31, 33, 35, 40

Neal 48, 58, 59

Abigail 59

Annie 59

Eliza Jane Amazeen 59

James 44

Neal (continued)

Martha Lear 59

Robert 59

William 59

Nollet

Elaine 49

O'Donnell

Dorothy 36

Oliver 49

Deborah Marvin 49

Hannah, Widow 49

Mr. 49

Thomas E. 53

Thomas Ellison 49

Thomas Ellison, Capt. 49

Thomas, Capt. 47

Page

Laurie Clark 48

Lois 48

Peirce 32

Pendleton 42

Brian, Capt. 14

Bryan 43

Caleb 14

James 43

Pepperell

Mary Frost P. 43

William, Sir. 43

Pepperrell

William, Jr. 12

William, Sr. 12

Phipps 39

Thomas 41, 45

Pitts

George & Virginia 33, 34

Poole

Kendrick 17

Richard 17

Pray

Annie, Miss 34

A New Castle Walkabout

Pridham

Morris 57

Prohaska

Elizabeth Britton 36

Grampy 32, 36

Sadie & Charles F. 36

Quirin

John 13

Louise Warren 13

Rand 59

Elizabeth 24

Frances 24

Reed N. 59

Samuel 24

Reed 32, 39

Hugh & Margaret 39

Margaret, Widow 39

Remick

Harley & Myrtis 30

Ricker

George B. 14

Robbins

Theodore & Mary 43

Robinson

Elizabeth 42

James 42

Mr. & Mrs. Philip 24

Salter

Eliza Marvin 50

Schaffer

Mary Tarbell 57

Schuler

Mr. 25

Seybolt

Carolyn 35

John & Carolyn 35

John, Mrs. 32

Sheafe 3, 29

Sherburne

Henry 17

Shreefe

Abraham 32, 37

Silva

J. Donald 11

J. Donald & Lucy 9

Sloan

Rev. 41, 45, 46, 51

Ruth 51

Smart

Ann 9, 18

St. John

Helen 46, 51

Staley

Margery Tarbell 57

Stevens

Robert & Pamela 52

Straw

Eldred & Joy 39

Steven 19

Sullivan 38

Gary 38

Jim & Bearnadette 38

Sweetser 42

Tarbell 48, 57, 58

Daniel 57

Edmund C. 57

Emeline 34

Margery T. Staley 57

Mary Schaffer 57

Tarleton 29, 32

Tarlton 17, 39

Abigail White 39

Charles C. 15

John 39

Thomas 12

Thomas 15

Tobey

Charles 39

The New Castle Historical Group

Toomey 48, 53
Richard & Bettie 53, 59

Towner
Edie Yeaton 18

Tredick 29
Edward 15
Henry 45, 46
Henry, Jr. 45

Trefferhan 17
Trefethen 9, 19, 29

Helena 19
John 38
Lewellyn 19

Trehethen
Benjamin 38

Trundy
John 17
William 9, 17

Tucker
Richard 47

Udaloy
John & Judith 12, 13

Underwood
Ben 17
John 17

Vennard 37, 47
George 57
George & Dorothy 36
Reed 22
Sarah Neal 59
William 35, 39

Walbach
Col. 34

Walton
George 2, 21, 24, 27, 28, 47
Marila W. West 24
Shadrach 47

Warren
George 12
Louise W. Quirin 13

Watkins
John 12

Webster
John 45

Wentworth 3
West

Edward 27, 28
James 24
Marila Walton 24

Wheeler
Cora Idella Marvin 50

White 17, 29, 37
Alexander 48, 51

Anna B. 11
Fred 28, 33
Grace Durkee 51

Herman 16
John 48
John E., Capt. 56

Miss 51
Nathan 41, 42, 45
Nathan, Jr. 42

Robert 53
Solomon 42
Tress 17

Williams
Bessie 19

Woodman 27
Mary 27

Woodridge
Benjamin, Rev. 10

Woodward
Douglas & Geraldine 23
Geraldine Haywood 23

Yeaton
Edie Towner 18
Joseph 18
Philip 18

The Newcastle Historical Group

The New Castle Historical Group is composed of former and current residents of New Castle, and friends of the community. The group's purpose is to provide an interaction between people interested in material of historic significance involving New Castle, from the time individuals and families immigrated and settled here, to the present.

Anyone interested is invited to attend the meetings, held in The New Castle Church Parish Hall the third Thursday of every month, except December, at 4:00 pm. During the summer, meetings are held, every other week, or as necessary.

Each meeting consists of a short business meeting, a presentation, and a project update period for the exchanging of ideas and information.

Participation is welcomed. Attendance is encouraged but not required.

The NCHG Journal, *G R I S T* (Great Island Tales), is published as information and material become available.

